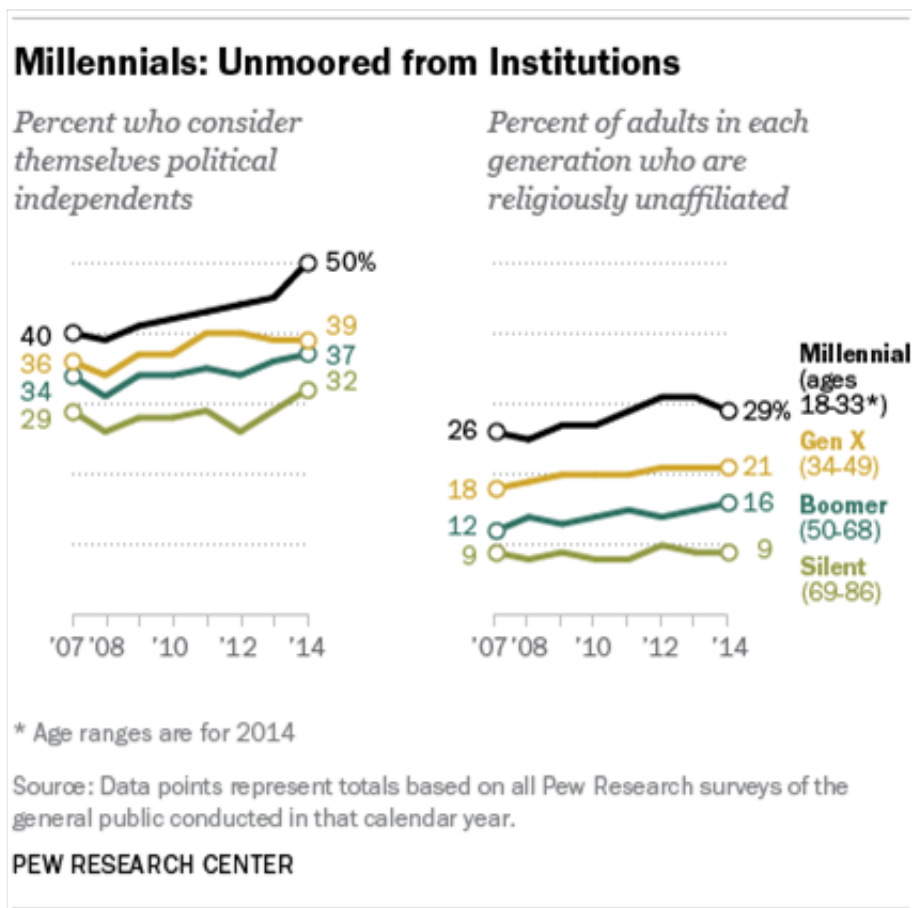


# Millennials in Adulthood

March 7, 2014

*Detached from Institutions, Networked with Friends*

## Overview



The Millennial generation is forging a distinctive path into adulthood. Now ranging in age from 18 to 33, they are relatively unattached to organized politics and religion, linked by social media, burdened by debt, distrustful of people, in no rush to marry—and optimistic about the future.

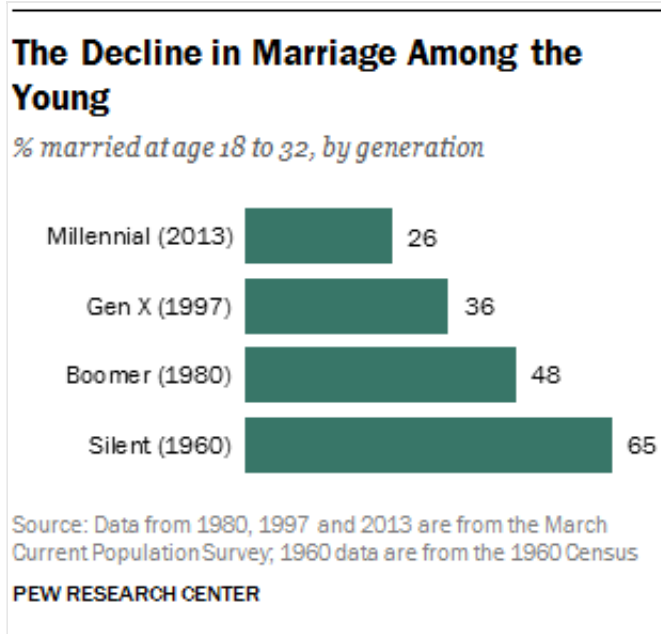
They are also America's most racially diverse generation. In all of these dimensions, they are different from today's older generations. And in many, they are also different from older adults back when they were the age Millennials are now.

Pew Research Center surveys show that half of Millennials (50%) now describe themselves as political independents and about three-in-ten (29%) say they are not affiliated with any religion. These are at or near the highest levels of political and religious disaffiliation recorded for any generation in the quarter-century that the Pew Research Center has been polling on these topics.

At the same time, however, Millennials stand out for voting heavily Democratic and for liberal views on many political and social issues, ranging from a belief in an activist government to support for same-sex marriage and marijuana legalization. (For more on these views, see Chapters 1 and 2.)

These findings are based on a new Pew Research Center survey conducted Feb. 14-23, 2014 among 1,821 adults nationwide, including 617 Millennial adults, and analysis of other Pew Research Center surveys conducted between 1990 and 2014.

Millennials have also been keeping their distance from another core institution of society—marriage. Just 26% of this generation is married. When they were the age that Millennials are now, 36% of Generation X, 48% of Baby Boomers and 65% of the members of the Silent Generation were married. (See box on page 10 for demographic portraits of America's four adult generations). Most unmarried Millennials (69%) say they would like to marry, but many, especially those with lower levels of income and education, lack what they deem to be a necessary prerequisite—a solid economic foundation.



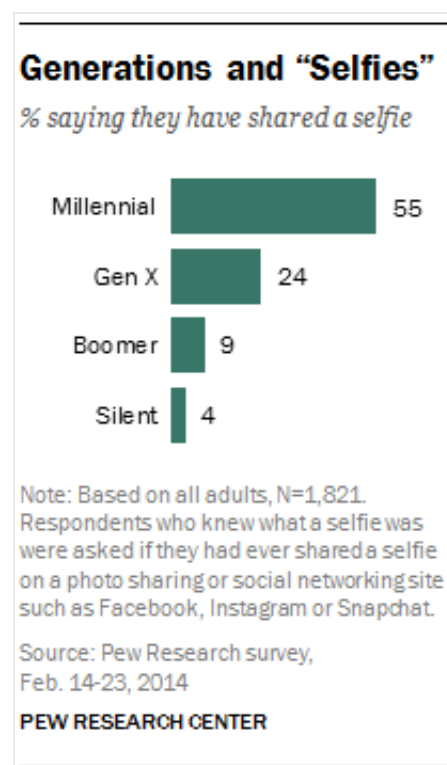
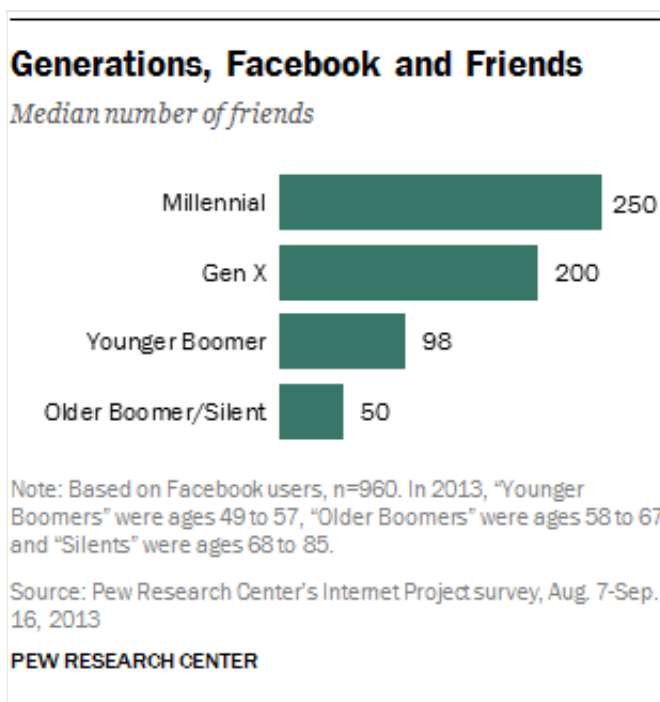
## Digital Natives

Adults of all ages have become less attached to political and religious institutions in the past decade, but Millennials are at the leading edge of this social phenomenon. They have also taken the lead in seizing on the new platforms of the digital era—the internet, mobile technology, social media—to construct personalized networks of friends, colleagues and affinity groups.

They are “digital natives”—the only generation for which these new technologies are not something they’ve had to adapt to. Not surprisingly, they are the most avid users. For example, 81% of Millennials are on Facebook, where their generation’s median friend count is 250, far higher than that of older age groups (these digital generation gaps have narrowed somewhat in recent years).

Millennials are also distinctive in how they place themselves at the center of self-created digital networks. Fully 55% have posted a “selfie” on a social media site; no other generation is nearly as inclined to do this. Indeed, in the new Pew Research survey, only about six-in-ten Boomers and about a third of Silents say they know what a “selfie” (a photo taken of oneself) is—though the term had acquired enough cachet to be declared the Oxford Dictionaries “word of the year” in 2013.

However, amidst their fervent embrace of all things digital, nine-in-ten Millennials say people generally share too much information about themselves online, a view held by



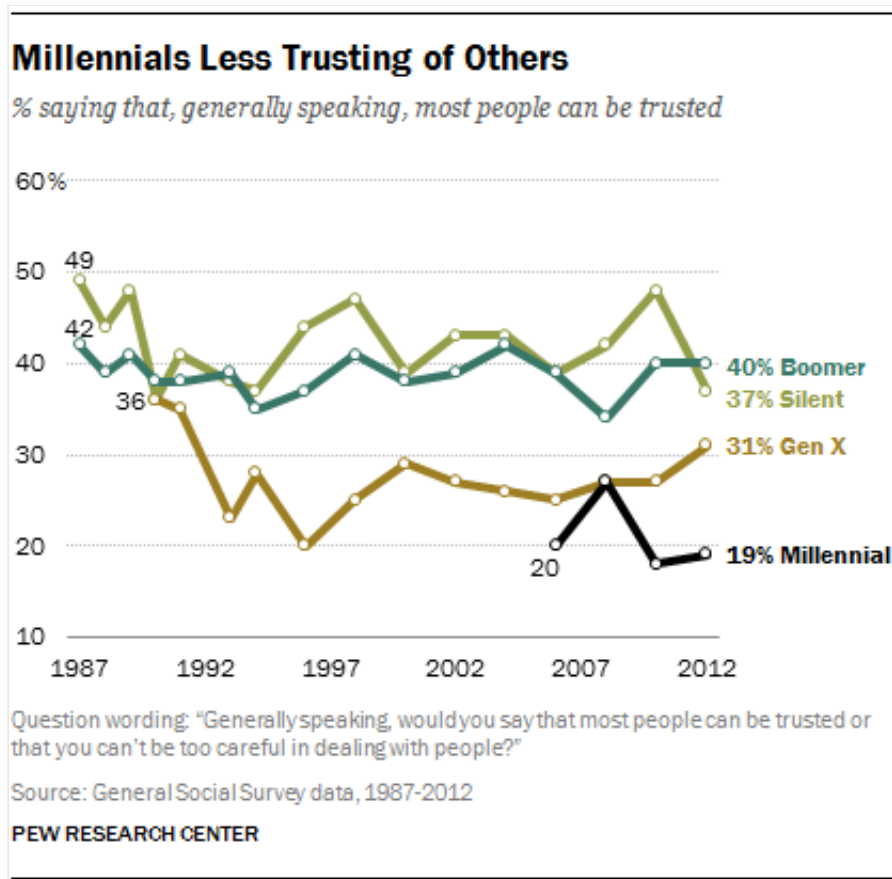
similarly lopsided proportions of all older generations.

## **Racial Diversity**

Millennials are the most racially diverse generation in American history, a trend driven by the large wave of Hispanic and Asian immigrants who have been coming to the U.S. for the past half century, and whose U.S.-born children are now aging into adulthood. In this realm, Millennials are a transitional generation. Some 43% of Millennial adults are non-white, the highest share of any generation. [About half of newborns](#) in America today are non-white, and the [Census Bureau projects](#) that the full U.S. population will be majority non-white sometime around 2043.

The racial makeup of today's young adults is one of the key factors in explaining their political liberalism. But it is not the only factor. Across a range of political and ideological measures, white Millennials, while less liberal than the non-whites of their generation, are more liberal than the whites in older generations.

## **Low on Social Trust; Upbeat about the Nation's Future**



Millennials have emerged into adulthood with low levels of social trust. In response to a long-standing social science survey question, “Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you can’t be too careful in dealing with people,” just 19% of Millennials say most people can be trusted, compared with 31% of Gen Xers, 37% of Silents and 40% of Boomers.

Their racial diversity may partly explain Millennials’ low levels of social trust. A 2007 Pew Research Center analysis found that minorities and low-income adults had lower levels of social trust than other groups. Based on similar findings over many years from other surveys, sociologists have theorized that people who feel vulnerable or disadvantaged for whatever reason find it riskier to trust because they’re less well-fortified to deal with the consequences of misplaced trust.

Despite this distrust of people and detachment from traditional institutions, Millennials are not out of step with older adults when it comes to their views about big business and the role of government. They are about as likely as their elders to have a favorable view

of business, and they are more likely than older generations to say they support an activist government.

They are also somewhat more upbeat than older adults about America's future, with 49% of Millennials saying the country's best days are ahead, a view held by 42% of Gen Xers, 44% of Boomers and 39% of Silents.

The relative optimism of today's young adults stands in contrast to the views of Boomers when they were about the same age as Millennials are now. In a 1974 Gallup survey, only about half of adults under the age of 30 said they had "quite a lot" of confidence in America's future, compared with seven-in-ten of those ages 30 and older.

Boomers came of age in the late 1960s and 1970s, helping to lead the civil rights, women's rights, anti-war and counter-cultural movements of that turbulent era. In 1972, the first presidential election in which large numbers of Boomers were eligible to vote, they skewed much more Democratic than their elders. But attitudes formed in early adulthood don't always stay fixed. In the latest Pew Research survey, about half of all Boomers (53%) say their political views have grown more conservative as they have aged, while just 35% say they have grown more liberal.

## **Economic Hardships**

Millennials are also the **first in the modern era** to have higher levels of student loan debt, poverty and unemployment, and lower levels of wealth and personal income than their two immediate predecessor generations (Gen Xers and Boomers) had at the same stage of their life cycles.

Their difficult economic circumstances in part reflect the impact of the Great Recession (2007-2009) and in part the longer-term effects of globalization and rapid technological change on the American workforce. Median household income in the U.S. today remains below its 1999 peak, the longest stretch of stagnation in the modern era, and during that time income and wealth gaps have widened.



The timing of these macro-economic trends has been especially hard on older Millennials, many of whom were just entering the workforce in 2007 when the economy sank into a deep recession from which it has yet to fully recover.

Not surprisingly, the new Pew Research survey finds that about seven-in-ten Americans, spanning all generations, say that today's young adults face more economic challenges than their elders did when they were first starting out.

At the same time, fully a third of older Millennials (ages 26 to 33) have a four-year college degree or more—making them the best-educated cohort of young adults in American history. Educational attainment is **highly correlated with economic success**, even more so for this generation than previous ones. In an increasingly knowledge-based economy, young adults today who do not advance beyond high school have been paying a much stiffer penalty—in terms of low wages and high unemployment—than their counterparts did one and two generations ago.

However, the new generation of college graduates also have their own economic burdens. They are entering adulthood with record levels of student debt: Two-thirds of recent bachelor's degree recipients have outstanding student loans, with an average debt of about \$27,000. Two decades ago, only half of recent graduates had college debt, and the average was \$15,000.

The economic hardships of young adults may be one reason that so many have been slow to marry. The median age at first marriage is now the highest in modern history—29 for men and 27 for women. In contrast to the patterns of the past, when adults in all socio-

## The Generations Defined

### The Millennial Generation

Born: After 1980

Age of adults in 2014: 18 to 33\*

Share of adult population: 27%

Share non-Hispanic white: 57%

Ind 50%; Dem 27%; Rep 17%

### Generation X

Born: 1965 to 1980

Age in 2014: 34 to 49

Share of adult population: 27%

Share non-Hispanic white: 61%

Ind 39%; Dem 32%; Rep 21%

### The Baby Boom Generation

Born: 1946 to 1964

Age in 2014: 50 to 68

Share of adult population: 32%

Share non-Hispanic white: 72%

Ind 37%; Dem 32%; Rep 25%

### The Silent Generation

Born: 1928 to 1945

Age in 2014: 69 to 86

Share of adult population: 12%

Share non-Hispanic white: 79%

Dem 34%; Ind 32%; Rep 29%

\* The youngest Millennials are in their teens. No chronological endpoint has been set for this group.

Note: The "Greatest Generation," which includes those born before 1928, is not included in the analysis due to the small sample size. Share of total population and share non-Hispanic white are based on adults only in 2013; 85-year-old Silents are not included due to data limitations.

Source: March 2013 Current Population Survey (IPUMS) and Pew Research surveys, January and February 2014

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economic groups married at roughly the same rate, marriage today is more prevalent among those with higher incomes and more education.

Perhaps because of their slow journey to marriage, Millennials lead all generations in the share of out-of-wedlock births. In 2012, 47% of births to women in the Millennial generation were non-marital, compared with 21% among older women. Some of this gap reflects a lifecycle effect—older women have always been less likely to give birth outside of marriage. But the gap is also driven by a shift in behaviors in recent decades. In 1996, when Gen Xers were about the same age that Millennials were in 2012, just 35% of births to that generation's mothers were outside of marriage (compared with 15% among older women in 1996).

Millennials join their elders in disapproving of this trend. About six-in-ten adults in all four generations say that more children being raised by a single parent is bad for society; this is the most negative evaluation by the public of any of the changes in family structure tested in the Pew Research survey (see Chapter 3).

## **Economic Optimism; Social Security Worries**



Despite their financial burdens, Millennials are the nation's most stubborn economic optimists. More than eight-in-ten say they either currently have enough money to lead the lives they want (32%) or expect to in the future (53%). No other cohort of adults is nearly as confident, though when Gen Xers were the age Millennials are now, they were equally upbeat about their own economic futures. Some of this optimism, therefore, may simply reflect the timeless confidence of youth.

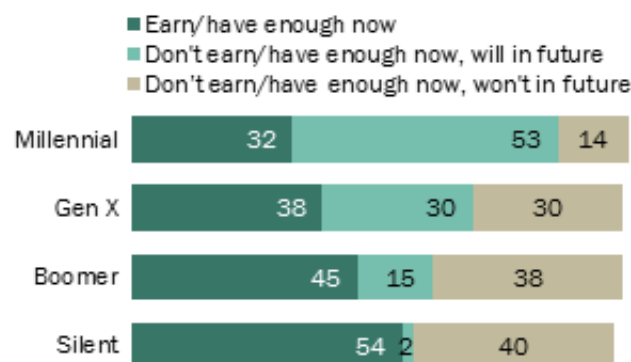
The confidence of Millennials in their long-term economic prospects is even more notable in light of another finding from the latest Pew Research survey: Fully half of Millennials (51%) say they do not believe there will be any money for them in the Social Security system by the time they are ready to retire, and an additional 39% say the system will only be able to provide them with retirement benefits at reduced levels. Just 6% expect to receive Social Security benefits at levels enjoyed by current retirees.

About six-in-ten Millennials (61%) oppose benefit cuts as a way to address the long-term funding problems of Social Security, a view held by about seven-in-ten older adults. There is a much bigger generation gap, however, on the question of whether government should give higher priority to programs that benefit the young or the old. About half (53%) of Millennials say the young, compared with 36% of Gen Xers and just 28% each of Boomers and Silents.

## Millennials Are Independent, But Vote Democratic

### Millennials Upbeat about Their Financial Future

% saying they ... to lead the kind of life they want



Note: Based on all adults regardless of employment status, N=1,821. Those who are employed were asked if they currently or will "earn enough money" and those who are not employed were asked if they currently or will "have enough income." "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

Source: Pew Research survey, Feb. 14-23, 2014

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Not only do half of all Millennials choose not to identify with either political party, just 31% say there is a great deal of difference between the Republican and Democratic parties. More people in older generations, including 58% of Silents, say there are big differences between the parties.

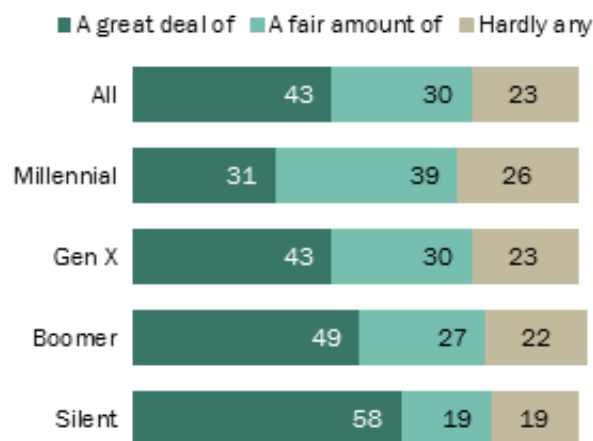
Even so, this generation stood out in the past two presidential elections as strikingly Democratic. According to national exit polls, the young-old partisan voting gaps in 2008 and 2012 were among the largest in the modern era, with Millennials far more supportive than older generations of Barack

Obama. As Obama's approval ratings have declined in recent years, however, Millennials have joined older adults in lowering their assessments of the president.

Yet Millennials continue to view the Democratic Party more favorably than the Republican Party. And Millennials today are still the only generation in which liberals are not significantly outnumbered by conservatives.

### Fewer Millennials See Big Differences Between Parties

*% saying there is ... difference in what the Republican and Democratic Parties stand for*

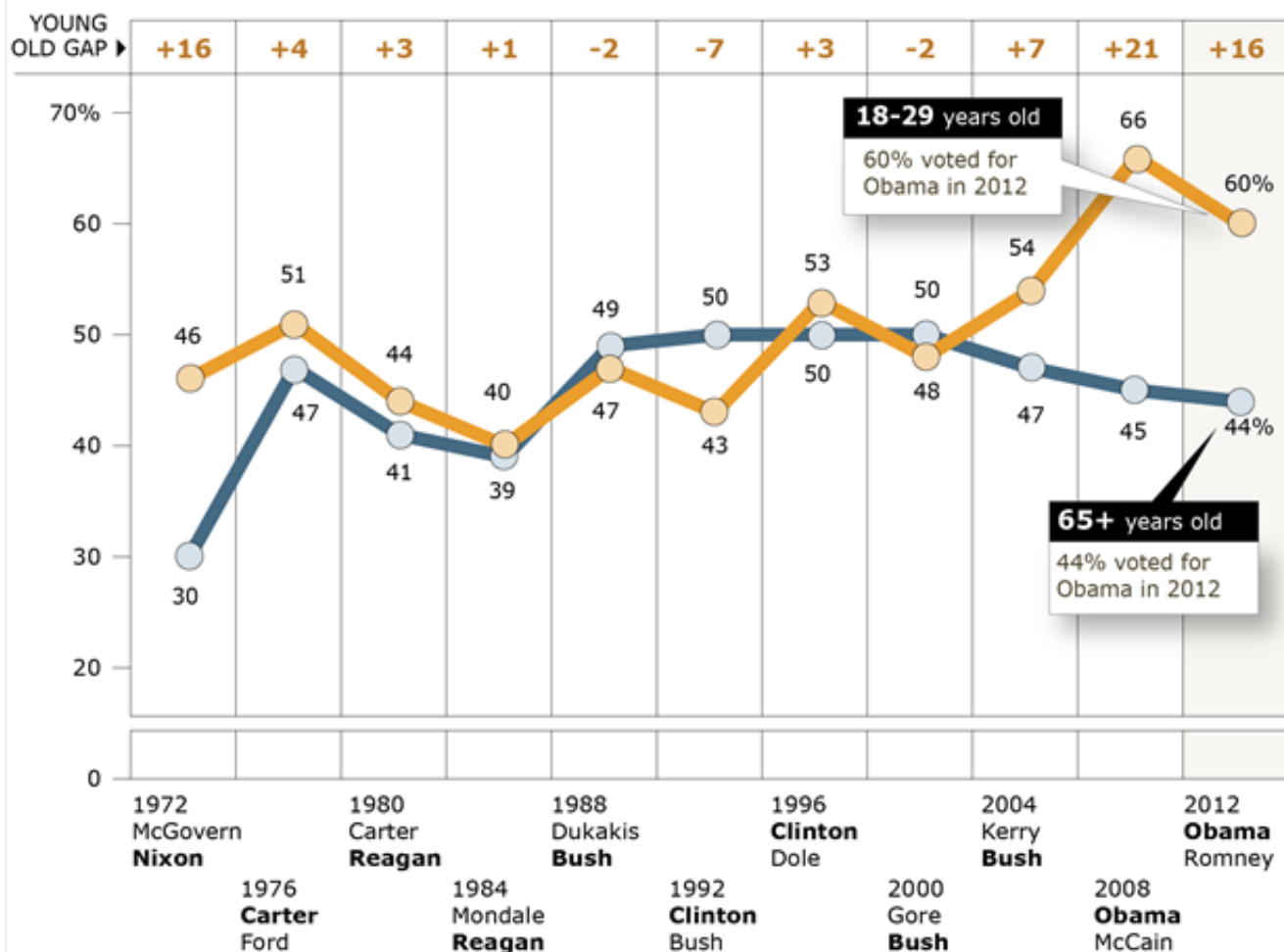


Source: Pew Research survey, Feb. 12-26, 2014

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### The Young/Old Voting Gap, 1972-2012

% voting for Democratic candidate



Note: From 1972 through 1988 oldest age category is 60 and older.

Source: Based on exit polls. 1972 and 1976: CBS. 1980-1988: CBS/New York Times. 1992: Voter Research & Surveys. 1996 and 2000: Voter News Service. 2004-2012: National Election Pool

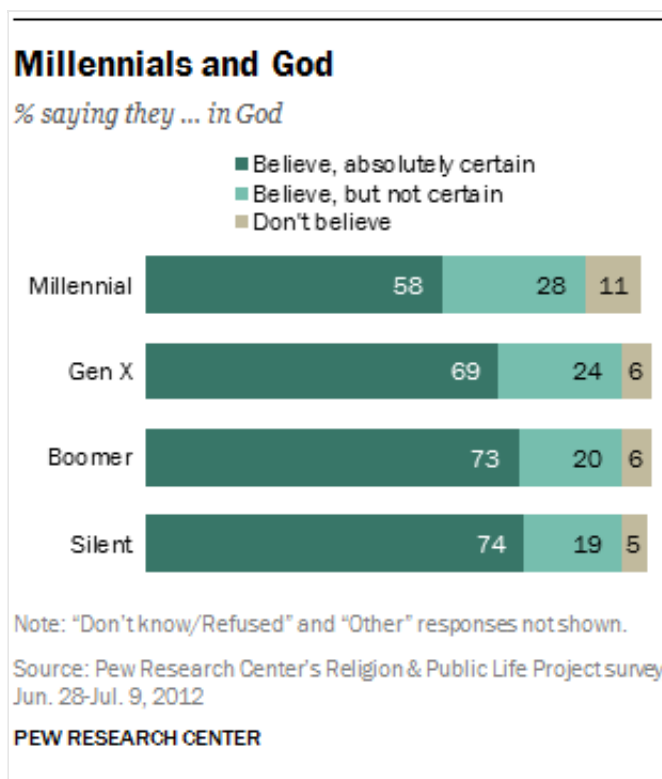
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## Social and Religious Views

Millennials' liberalism is apparent in their views on a range of social issues such as same-sex marriage, interracial marriage and marijuana legalization. In all of these realms, they are more liberal than their elders. However, on some other social issues—including abortion and gun control—the views of Millennials are not much different from those of older adults.

This generation's religious views and behaviors are quite different from older age groups. Not only are they less likely than older generations to be affiliated with any religion, they are also less likely to say they believe in God. A solid majority still do—86%—but only 58% say they are “absolutely certain” that God exists, a lower share than among older adults, according to a 2012 survey by the Pew Research Center's Religion & Public Life Project. But if past is prologue, these young adults may develop a stronger belief in God over the course of their lives, just as previous generations have.

## Self-Identification



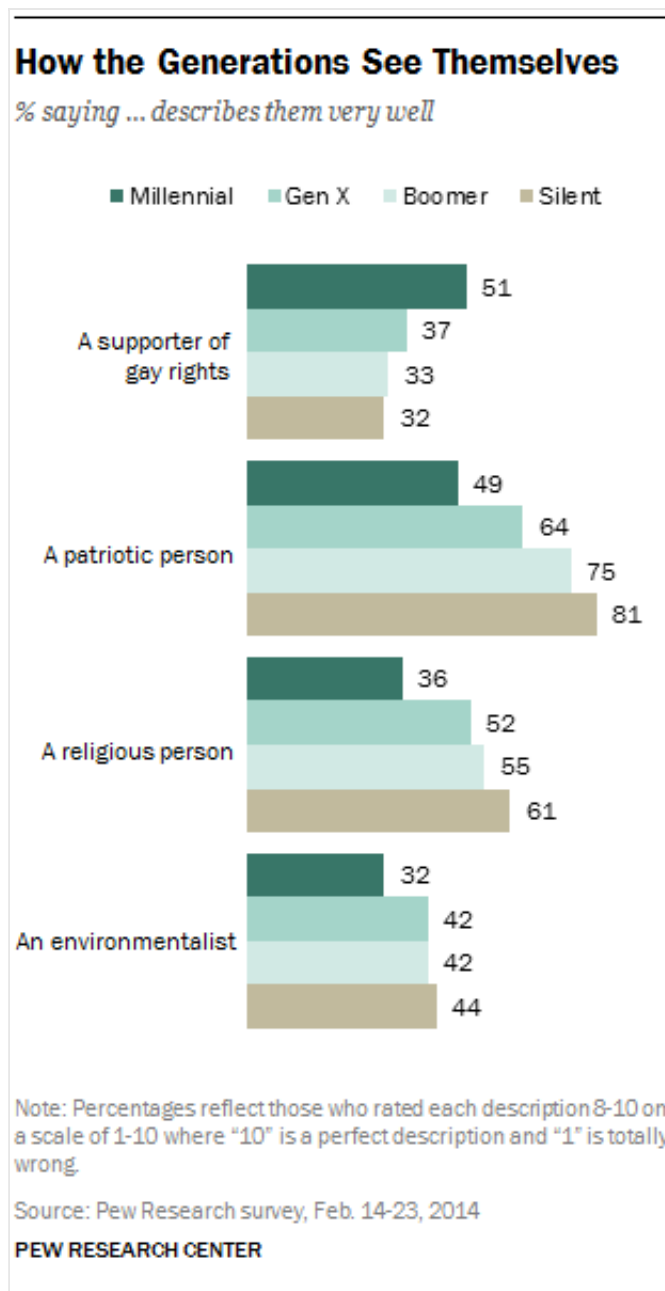
In response to a battery of questions in the latest Pew Research survey about how they think of themselves, Millennials are much less inclined than older adults to self-identify as either religious or patriotic.

For example, only about half (49%) of Millennials say the phrase “a patriotic person” describes them very well—with 35% saying this is a “perfect” description. By contrast, 64% of Gen Xers, 75% of Boomers and 81% of Silents say this describes them very well. This gap may be due more to their age and stage in life than a characteristic of their generation. When Gen Xers were young, they too lagged behind their elders on this measure in a similarly worded question.

Millennials are also somewhat less likely than older adults to describe themselves as environmentalists—just 32% say this describes them very well, compared with at least four-in-ten among all older generations.

On the other hand, they are far more likely to say they are supporters of gay rights—some 51% do so, compared with 37% of Gen Xers and about a third of older adults.

## Millennials by Age and Race



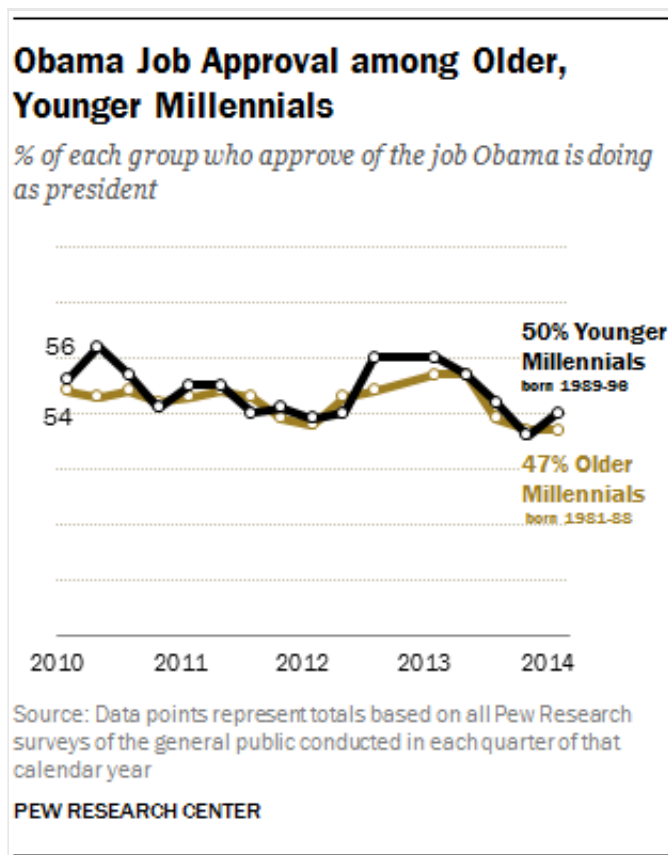
As is the case within any generation, Millennials are not all alike. They are a diverse group with a myriad of views on many of the important issues of their time. Cultural arbiters have yet to determine how young the youngest Millennials are, or when the next generation begins. And some political analysts have suggested that older and younger Millennials may differ in terms of their political views and party allegiances.

But an analysis of Pew Research surveys conducted in 2014 shows that the shares of younger and older Millennials who identify with the Democratic Party are roughly comparable.

Younger and older Millennials also have similar assessments of the job Barack Obama is doing as president. According to Pew Research surveys taken in 2014, 50% of younger Millennials (ages 18 to 25) and 47% of older Millennials (26 to 33) approve of the way Obama is handling his job as president.

The political views of Millennials differ significantly across racial and ethnic lines. About half of white Millennials (51%) say they are political independents. The remainder divide between the Republican (24%) and Democratic (19%) parties. Among non-white Millennials, about as many (47%) say they are independent. But nearly twice as many (37%) identify as Democrats while just 9% identify as Republicans.

These partisan patterns are closely linked to views of Obama. While Millennials as a group are somewhat more approving of Obama than Gen Xers, Boomers or Silents, these differences are driven more by race and ethnicity than by age. White Millennials' views of Obama are not substantially different from those of older whites. Some 34% of white

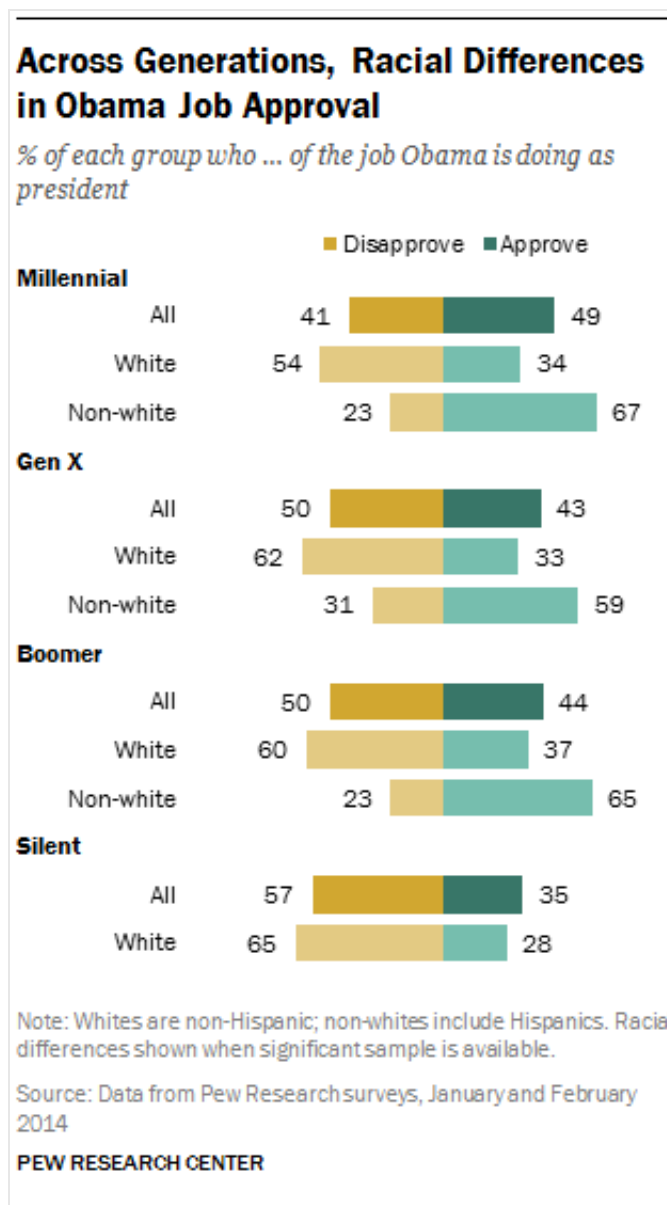




Millennials approve of the job Obama is doing as president, compared with 33% of Gen Xers, 37% of Boomers and 28% of Silents. By contrast 67% of non-white Millennials give Obama high marks for the job he's doing as president.

White and non-white Millennials have different views on the role of government as well. On balance, white Millennials say they would prefer a smaller government that provides fewer services (52%), rather than a bigger government that provides more services (39%). Non-white Millennials lean heavily toward a bigger government: 71% say they would prefer a bigger government that provides more services, while only 21% say they would prefer a smaller government. The racial gaps are about as wide among Gen Xers and Boomers.

The remainder of this report is organized in the following way. Chapter 1 looks at key political trends by generation, drawing on Pew Research data from the past decade or longer. The trends include party identification, political ideology, presidential approval and views of Congress. Chapter 2 looks at key policy issues by generation, including same-sex marriage, marijuana legalization, immigration, abortion, gun control, Social Security and the role of government. Chapter 3 looks at economic attitudes, technology use, and views on major societal trends, all through the lens of generation. It also looks at how adults from different generations self-identify across a range of dimensions (religiosity, patriotism, environmentalism and gay rights).



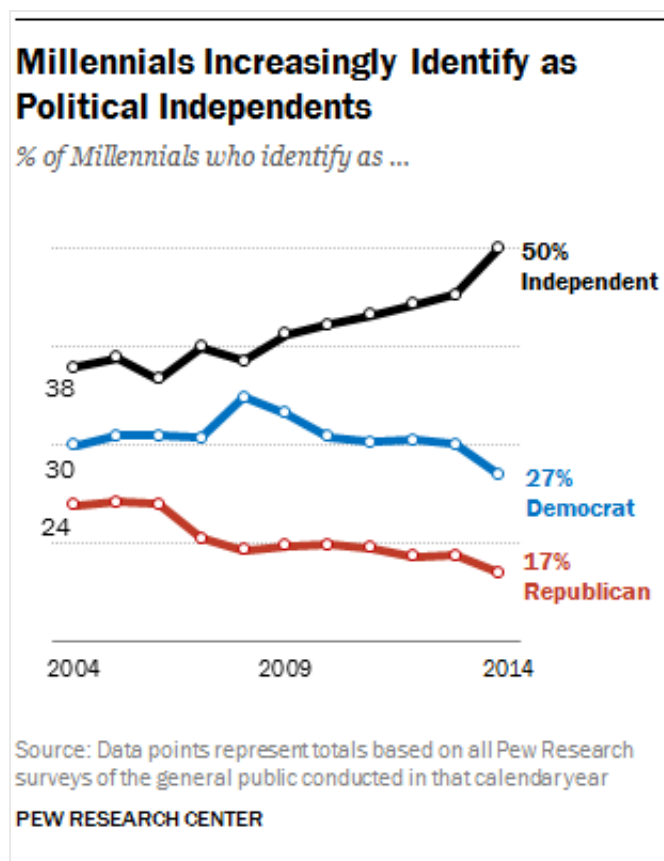


March 7, 2014

## Millennials in Adulthood

*Detached from Institutions, Networked with Friends*

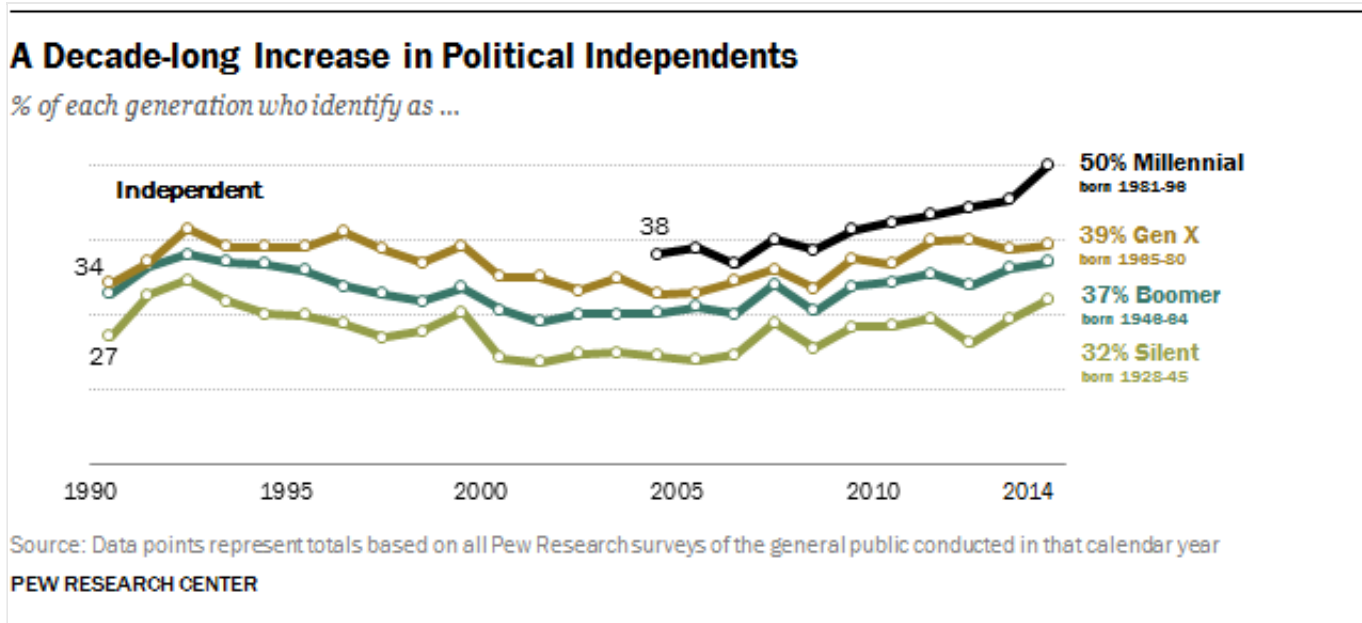
### Chapter 1: Political Trends



Millennials have a different relationship with politics than other generations. These young adults are less likely than previous generations to identify with either major political party. At the same time, far more Millennials lean toward the Democratic Party than the Republican Party. And they are the most liberal and least conservative of the four generations. Using Pew Research Center survey data, this chapter charts the political emergence of the Millennial generation in the past decade and highlights how they compare with Gen Xers, Boomers and the Silent generation.

### Party Identification: The Rise of the Independents

While growing political polarization makes the headlines, another trend is reshaping the modern political landscape. In the past decade, the share of self-described independents with no firm ties to either party has grown in every generation, but it has increased the most among Millennials.

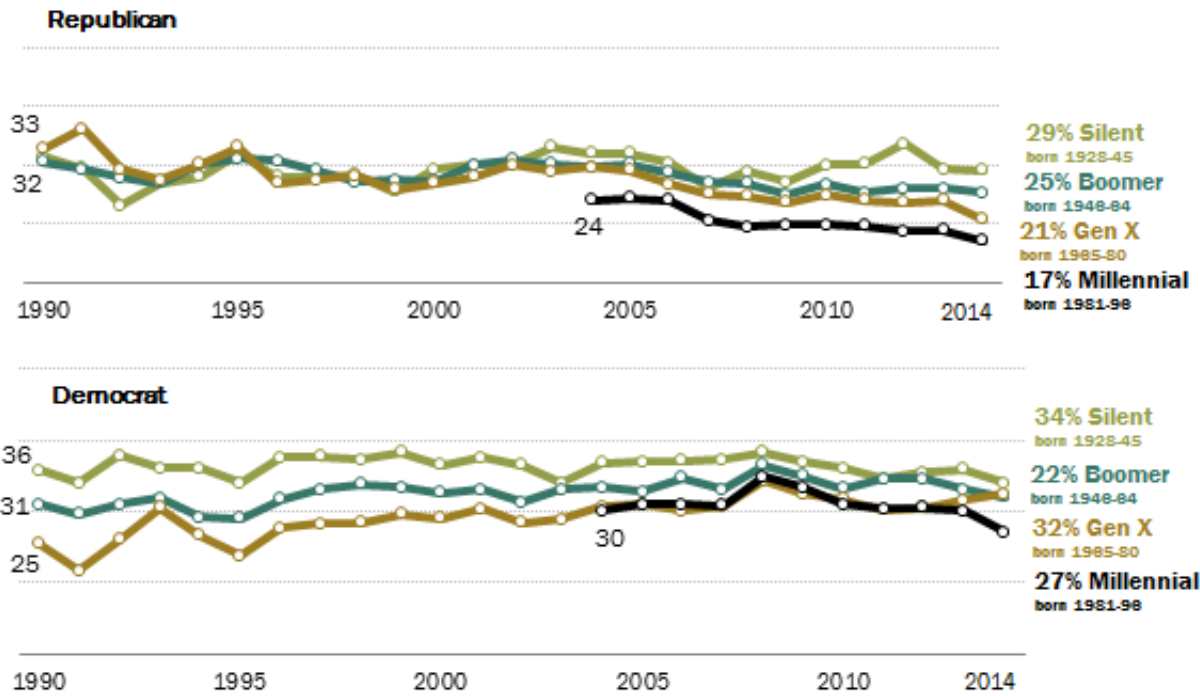


According to Pew Research surveys conducted in January and February of this year, half of all Millennials now identify themselves as political independents, up from 38% in 2004.

Both parties have lost ground among Millennials in the past 10 years, though Republicans have lost somewhat more ground than Democrats. The proportion of Millennials who identify as Republicans has fallen from 24% in 2004 to 17% today. Democratic identification stood at 30% in 2004, rose to 35% in 2008 when young adults rallied behind Obama, but has since fallen back to 27% in recent polls.

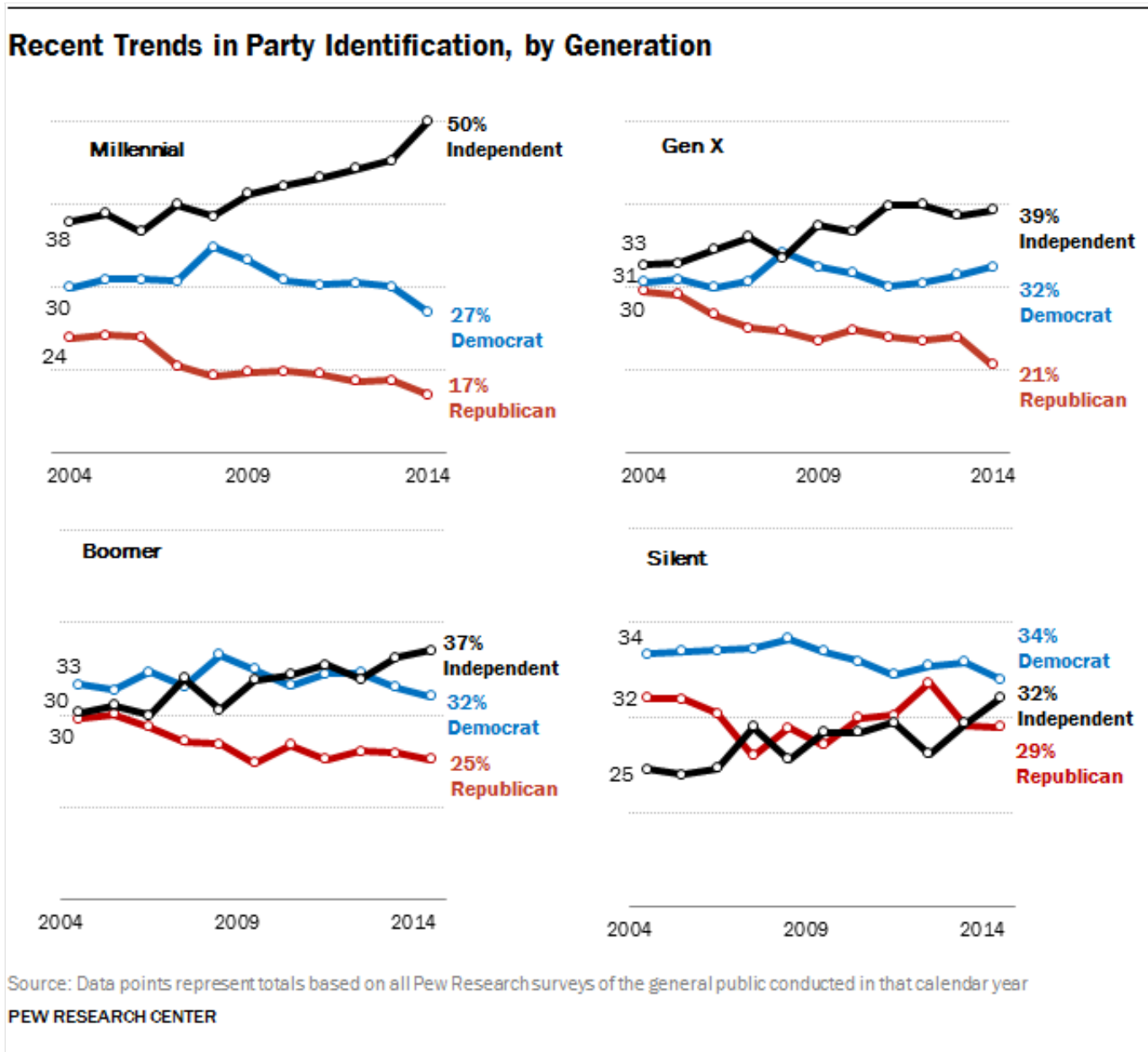
## Trends in Major Party Identification, by Generation

% of each generation who identify as ...



Source: Data points represent totals based on all Pew Research surveys of the general public conducted in that calendar year

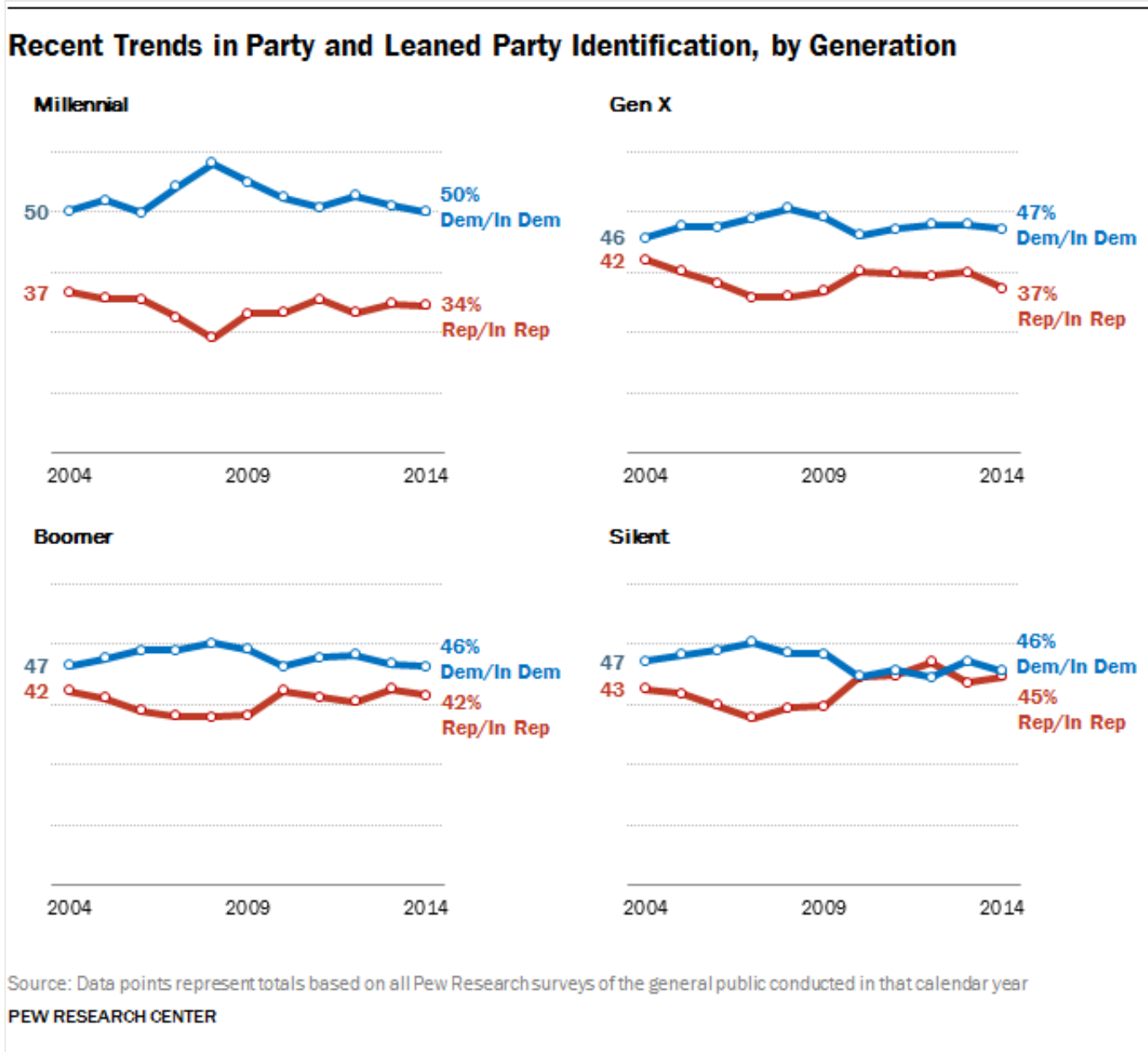
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## Millennials' Democratic Leanings

When the party leanings of independents are taken into account, the Democratic Party's advantage among Millennials becomes more apparent. Half of Millennials (50%) identify as Democrats or say they *lean* toward the Democratic Party, 16 points greater than the percentage who identify or say they lean Republican (34%). As with straight party identification, the Democratic Party's advantage among Millennials on leaned party identification has narrowed since 2008; during that year, twice as many Millennials identified as Democrats or leaned Democratic (58%) as identified with the

GOP or leaned Republican (29%).

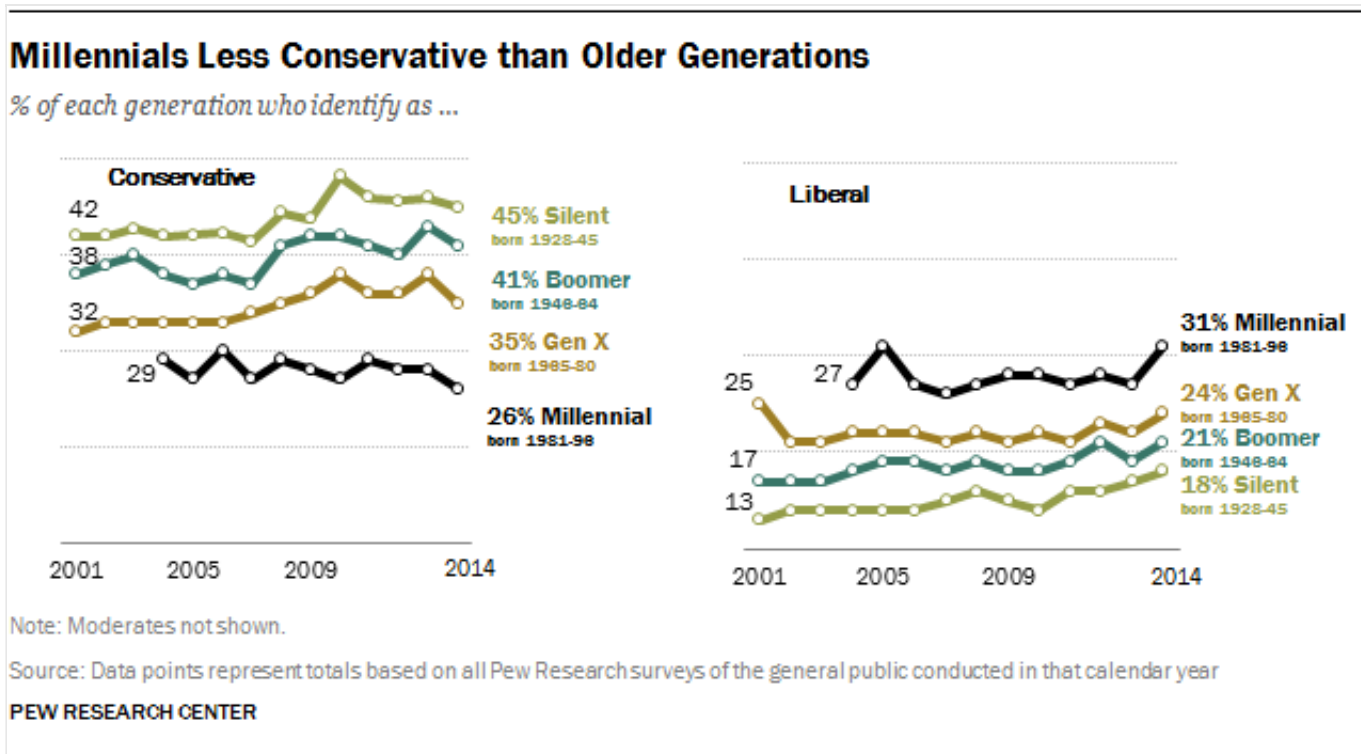


Among older generations, Democrats also have a wide advantage among Gen Xers; 47% are Democrats or lean Democratic while 37% are Republicans or lean Republican. Boomers' and Silents' partisan leanings are more evenly divided.

### Ideology: Millennials Less Conservative, More Liberal

Over the past 10 years Millennials have remained the most liberal and least conservative

of the four generations, and the only generation in which liberals are not significantly outnumbered by conservatives. In surveys conducted in 2014, 31% of Millennials say their political views are liberal, 39% are moderate and 26% are conservative.



## On Social Issues, Millennials Chart a More Liberal Path

*% saying political/social views have become ...*

	Total	Millennial	Gen X	Boomer	Silent
	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Political views</b>					
More liberal	39	48	42	35	24
More conservative	49	42	48	53	57
Not changed/Mixed (Vol.)	8	6	6	10	10
Don't know/Ref. (Vol.)	4	4	4	3	9
	100	100	100	100	100
<b>Social views</b>					
More liberal	42	57	41	33	35
More conservative	49	36	52	56	51
Not changed/Mixed (Vol.)	6	4	4	7	11
Don't know/Ref. (Vol.)	3	4	3	4	3
	100	100	100	100	100

Note: Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Source: Pew Research survey, Feb. 14-23, 2014

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Millennials, like Gen Xers, are divided over whether their political views have become more liberal or conservative over the course of their lives. Among Millennials, 48% say their political views have become more liberal while 42% say they have become more conservative.

On social issues, however, most Millennials (57%) say their views have become more liberal. By contrast, about half or more in older generations—including 52% of Gen Xers—say their social views have become more conservative over the course of their lives.

## Obama Job Rating Falls

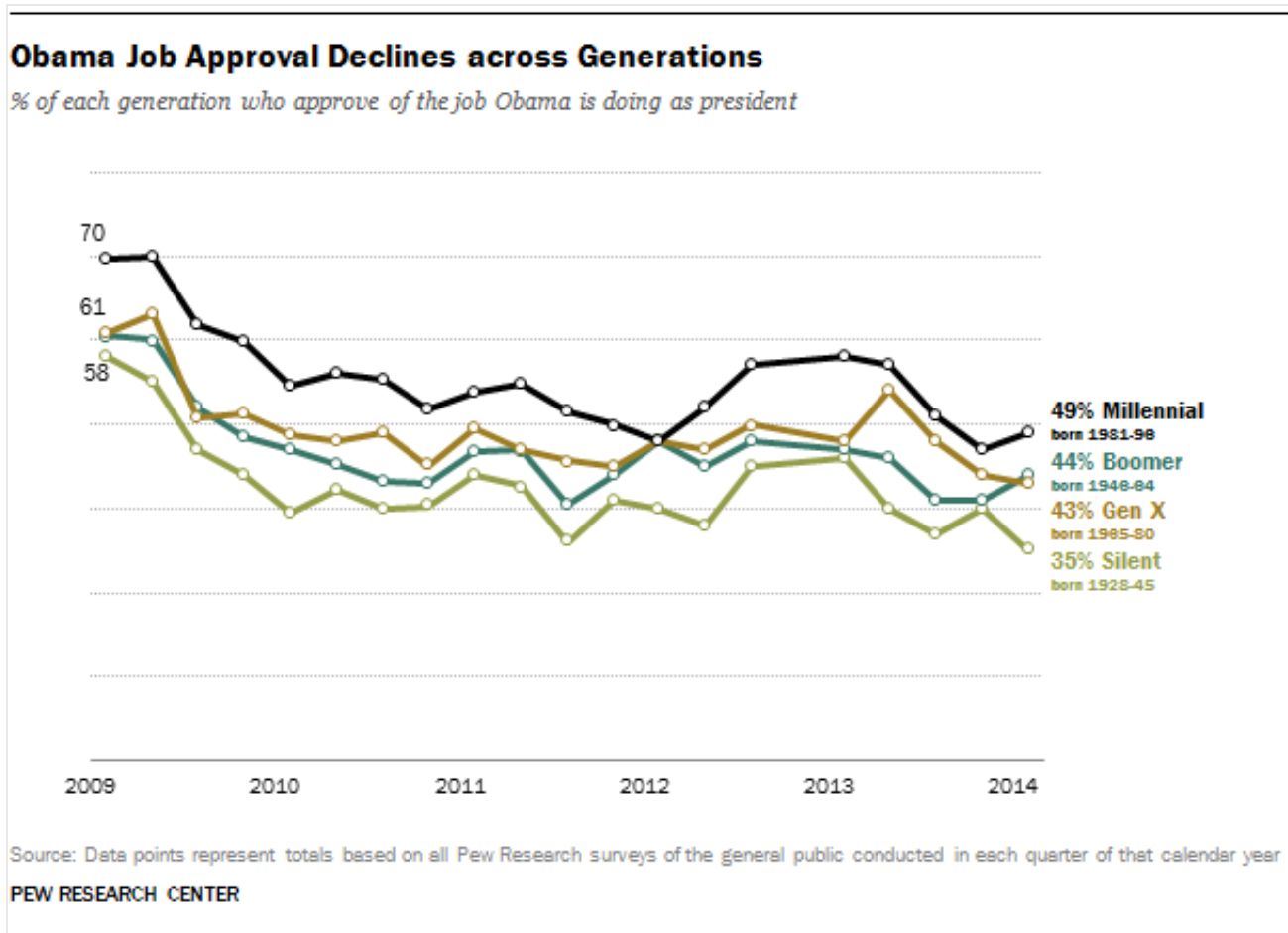
President Obama was swept into the White House in 2008 on a wave of support from young voters. Yet within six months of taking office, his job approval rating began to slide among all generations.

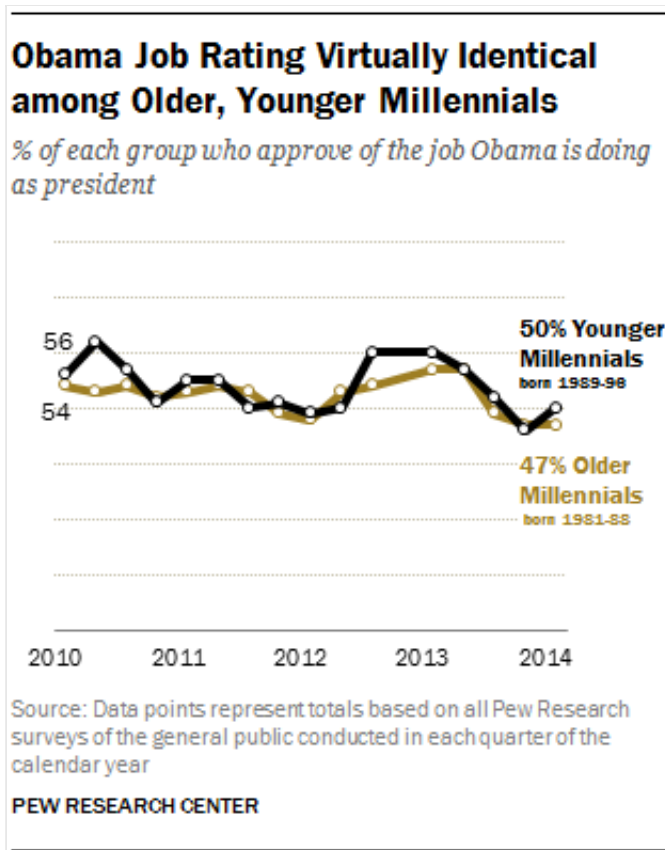
Among Millennials, Obama's job approval has fallen from 70% in those first honeymoon months of 2009, his highest rating among any generation, to 49% in combined surveys



from January and February 2014. The falloff has been about as steep among Silents (23 points), Gen Xers (18 points) and Boomers (17 points).

Nonetheless, Millennials have a more positive view of Obama's job performance than do older Americans. Currently, 49% of Millennials approve of the way Obama is handling his job as president, compared with 44% of Boomers, 43% of Gen Xers and 35% of Silents.





There is no indication that younger Millennials are any less supportive of Obama than older Millennials. Obama's job rating is virtually the same among younger Millennials (ages 18 to 25) as among older Millennials (26 to 33). In surveys conducted this year, 50% of younger Millennials and 47% of older Millennials approve of the way he is handling his job as president. Since the beginning of 2010, there has been very little evidence of an age gap among Millennials in Obama's job rating.

## Racial Gap in Views of Obama

## Obama Job Rating Negative among Whites across Generations

*% of each group who ... of the job Obama is doing as president*

	Approve %	Disapprove %	DK %	N
<b>Total</b>	44	48	8=100	3325
White	34	60	7=100	2323
Non-white	65	25	10=100	961
<b>Millennial</b>	49	41	11=100	952
White	34	54	12=100	534
Non-white	67	23	9=100	412
<b>Gen X</b>	43	50	7=100	662
White	33	62	5=100	432
Non-white	59	31	10=100	228
<b>Boomer</b>	44	50	6=100	1173
White	37	60	4=100	895
Non-white	65	23	12=100	260
<b>Silent</b>	35	57	8=100	464
White	28	65	7=100	405

Note: Whites are non-Hispanic; non-Whites include Hispanics. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Surveys include too few non-white Silents to analyze.

Source: Pew Research surveys, January and February 2014

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Race and age have long been factors in opinions about Obama. Obama's higher job ratings among Millennials throughout much of his presidency have been at least partly attributable to the racial and ethnic diversity of this generation.

Surveys conducted this year underscore the sharp racial differences in Obama's job rating among generations. Just 34% of white Millennials approve of Obama's job performance. That is little different from the shares of white Gen Xers (33%), Boomers (37%) or Silents (28%) who approve of Obama's job performance. Fully two-thirds of non-white Millennials (67%) approve of Obama's job performance, so too do 59% of non-white Gen Xers and 65% of non-white Boomers. (There are too few non-white Silents in the surveys to analyze.)

In 2012, 60% of all voters under 30 voted for Obama, according to [national exit polls](#). But just 44% of whites in this age group supported the president's reelection, while 51% backed Mitt Romney. In 2008, a majority of whites under 30 (54%) had supported Obama. Obama won overwhelming shares of the vote among young blacks and Hispanics in both 2012 and 2008. In 2012, 91% of blacks under 30 and 74% of Hispanics in this age group supported Obama.

## How Does Obama Make You Feel?

**Feelings of Pride in Obama Decline, Especially among Millennials**

*% saying Obama makes them feel ...*

	Mar 2010 %	Oct 2011 %	Feb 2014 %	'10-'14 Change
<b>Proud</b>				
Total	49	45	42	-7
Millennial	57	49	45	-12
Gen X	46	45	41	-5
Boomer	47	45	41	-6
Silent	44	38	37	-7
<b>Millennial-Silent diff</b>	<b>+13</b>	<b>+11</b>	<b>+8</b>	
<b>Optimistic</b>				
Total	-	-	38	-
Millennial	-	-	43	-
Gen X	-	-	37	-
Boomer	-	-	38	-
Silent	-	-	27	-
<b>Millennial-Silent diff</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>+16</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: Pew Research survey, Feb. 14-23, 2014

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Positive personal reactions to Obama also have declined since his first term in office. Currently, 42% of Americans say Obama makes them feel proud, while 54% say this is not the case. In 2010, 49% said that Obama engendered feelings of pride and in November 2008, shortly after his election as president, [65% of voters said he made them](#)

feel proud.

Four years ago, Millennials were more likely than older generations to say Obama made them feel proud; 57% of Millennials said this, compared with about half or less in the older cohorts. Today, 45% of Millennials and similar shares of Gen Xers and Boomers (41% each) say Obama inspires pride. Silents remain less likely than those in the youngest generation to say the president makes them feel proud.

Millennials also are about as likely as Gen Xers and Boomers to say Obama makes them feel optimistic, while members of the Silent generation express less positive views. Half of Millennials, and majorities in older age cohorts, say that Obama does not make them feel optimistic.

### **Little Change in Feelings of Disappointment with Obama**

**Fewer Millennials than Older Americans Say They Are Disappointed in Obama**

*% saying Obama makes them feel ...*

	Mar 2010	Oct 2011	Feb 2014	'10-'14 Change
	%	%	%	
<b>Disappointed</b>				
Total	44	53	51	+7
Millennial	40	47	44	+4
Gen X	42	53	53	+11
Boomer	47	56	54	+7
Silent	52	59	59	+7
<b>Millennial-Silent diff</b>	<b>-12</b>	<b>-12</b>	<b>-15</b>	
<b>Angry</b>				
Total	30	29	27	-3
Millennial	24	19	21	-3
Gen X	29	28	24	-5
Boomer	33	32	31	-2
Silent	36	40	39	+3
<b>Millennial-Silent diff</b>	<b>-12</b>	<b>-21</b>	<b>-18</b>	

Source: Pew Research survey, Feb. 14-23, 2014

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About half of all Americans (51%) say that Obama makes them feel disappointed, while 46% say he does not. These opinions have changed little from 2011, when 53% expressed disappointment with Obama.

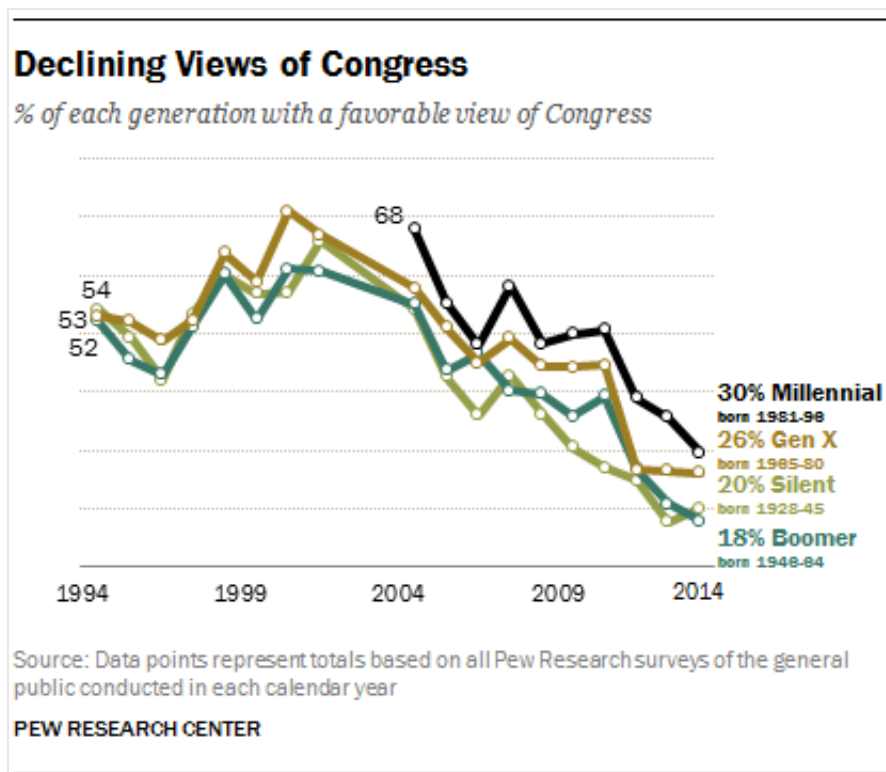
Millennials are less likely than older age cohorts to say they feel disappointed in Obama: 44% of Millennials express disappointment with the president, compared with half or more in older generations.

Obama engenders more anger among older cohorts—Boomers and Silents—than among Millennials or Gen Xers. These views have changed little since 2010.

Personal feelings about Obama, like views of his job performance, are divided along racial and ethnic lines. For instance, while a majority of non-white Millennials (61%) feel pride in Obama, just 32% of white Millennials agree. Those differences are reflected to

varying degrees across older age cohorts as well.

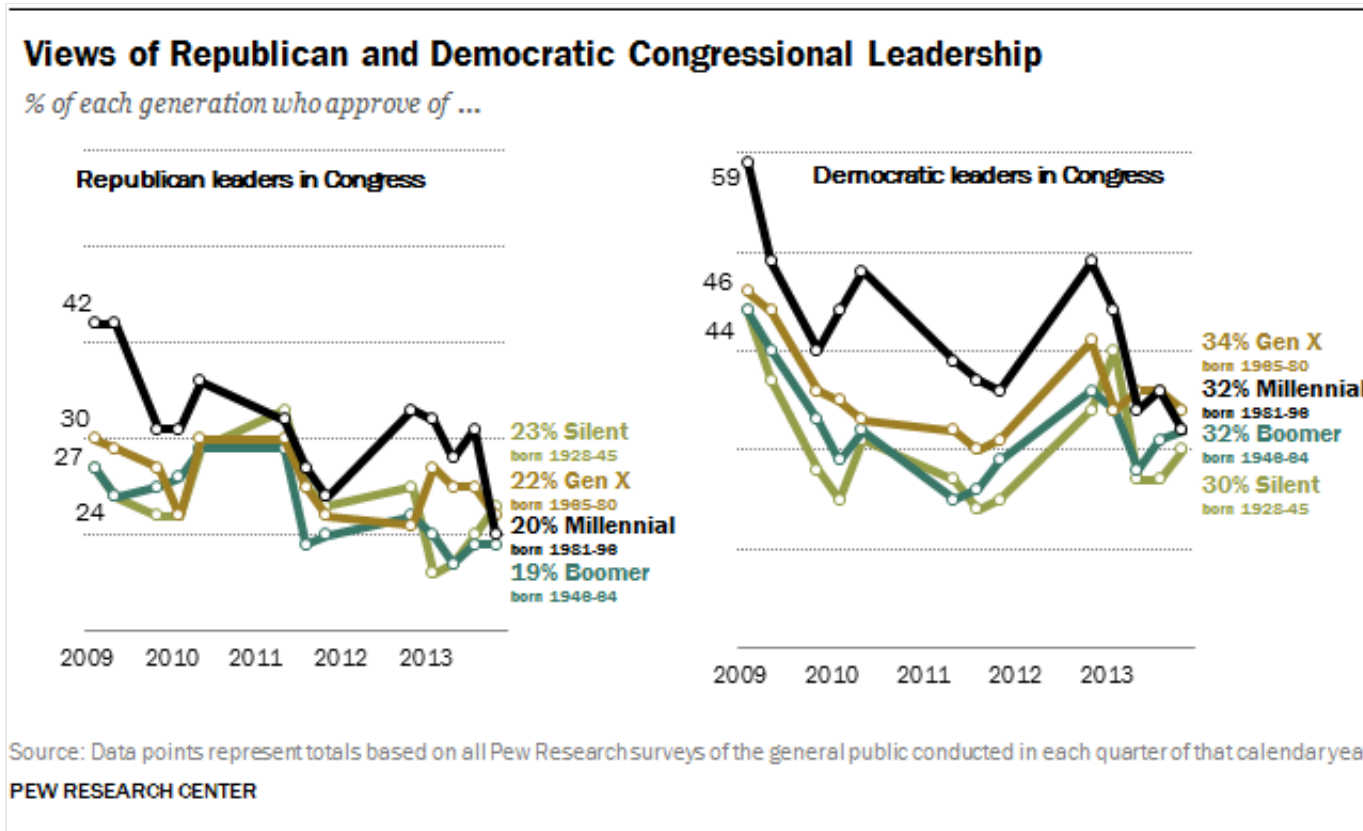
## Favorable Views of Congress Plummet



Favorable opinions of Congress have fallen sharply over the past decade across generations. Among Millennials, for instance, just 30% view Congress favorably, down from 68% in 2004.

A slightly different pattern emerges on views of the Republican and Democratic congressional leadership. Ten years ago, Millennials were significantly more likely than other generations to approve of both Republican and Democratic leaders in Congress. Today, there is virtually no difference in the share of each generation that expresses approval of either party's legislative leadership.

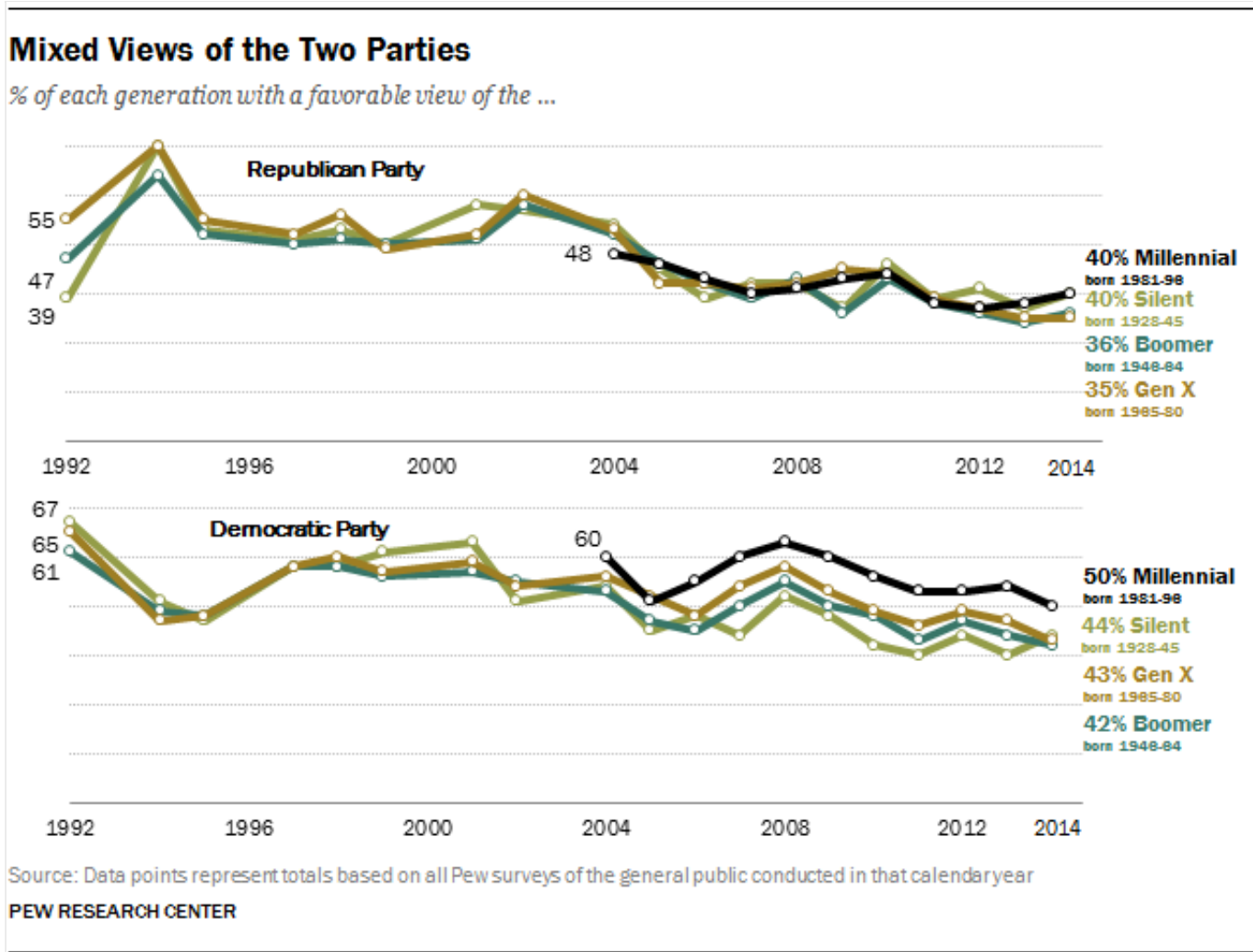




## Views of the Parties

Over most of the last decade, Millennials have expressed more favorable opinions of the Democratic Party than the Republican Party. In Pew Research Center surveys this year, 50% of Millennials say they have a favorable impression of the Democratic Party while 40% view the GOP favorably.

Millennials express more favorable views of the Democratic Party than do older age cohorts. But in the current surveys, Millennials' views of the Republican Party are about the same as those of older generations.



March 7, 2014

## Millennials in Adulthood

*Detached from Institutions, Networked with Friends*

### Chapter 2: Generations and Issues

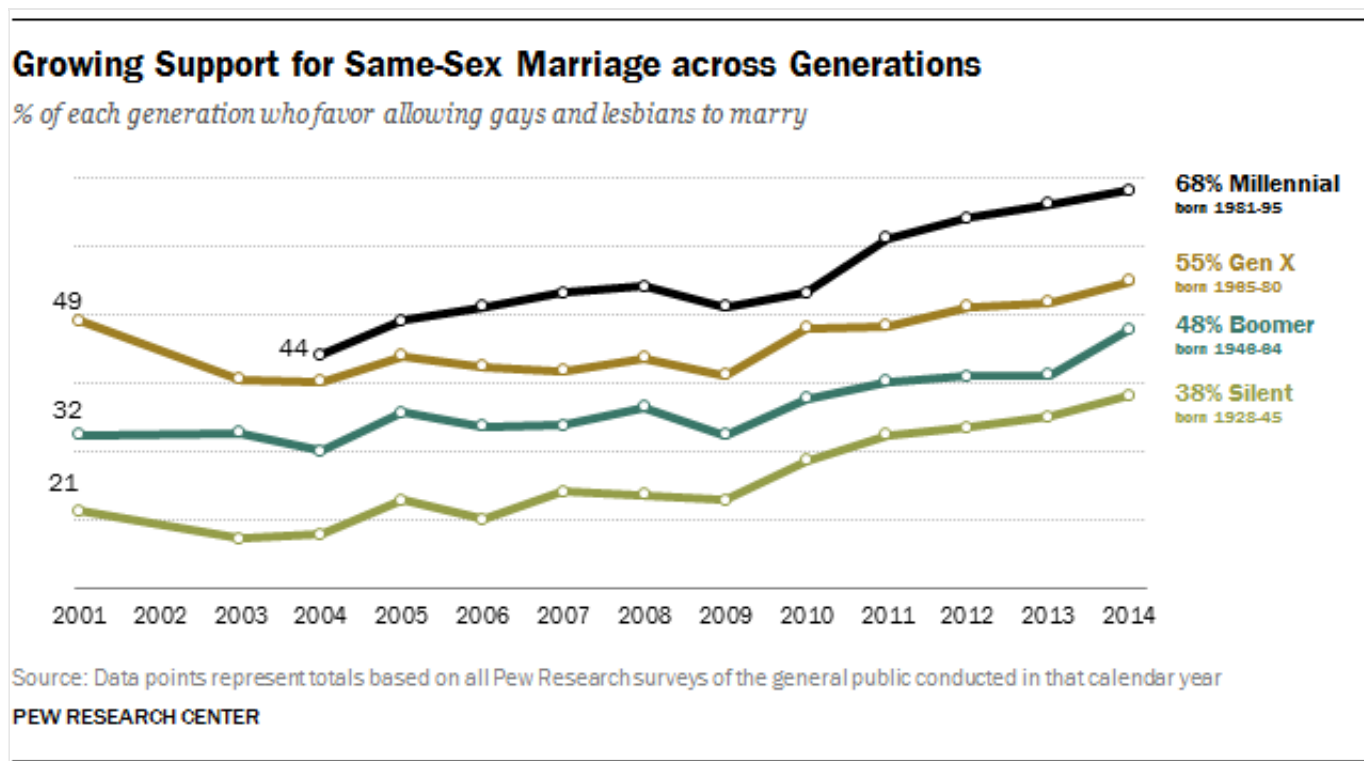
Millennials are at the forefront of the recent rise in public support for same-sex marriage and the legalization of marijuana. Millennials take more liberal positions than older generations on other major issues as well, including immigration reform. And they are far more likely than older age cohorts to express support for an activist government.

But on some issues, Millennials' views differ little from those of older Americans. About

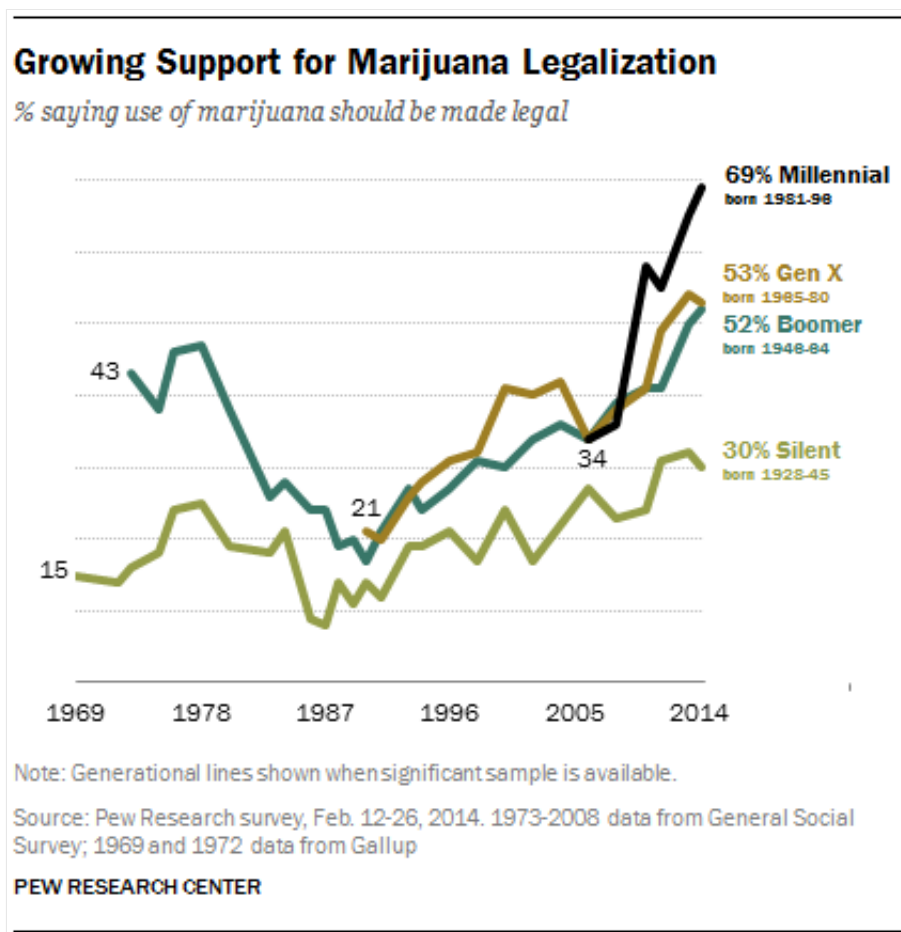
half (48%) say it is more important to protect gun rights than control gun ownership, about the same as older generations. A majority of Millennials say that abortion should be legal in all or most cases, but so do comparable percentages of Gen Xers and Boomers, while the Silent generation is less supportive of legal abortion.

## Same-Sex Marriage

Support for same-sex marriage has increased dramatically over the past decade. But as was the case in 2004, there are substantial differences in opinions across generations. Millennials were the most supportive of same-sex marriage a decade ago and have grown more so since then. Currently, 68% favor allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally, up from 44% in 2004. During the same period, the proportion of Gen Xers who support gay marriage increased from 40% to 55% while rising by 18 percentage points among Boomers (30% to 48%) and by 20 points among members of the Silent generation (18% to 38%).



## Legalization of Marijuana



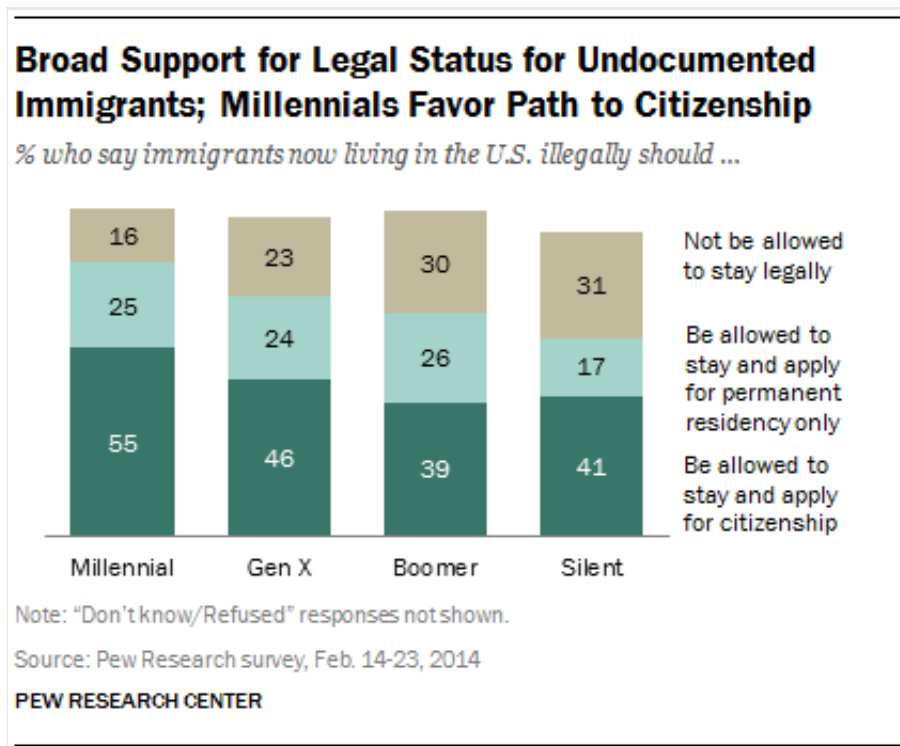
Millennials' support for legalizing the use of marijuana has surged in recent years. Just eight years ago, 34% favored the legal use of marijuana. Today, that figure has roughly doubled to 69%.

Support for legalizing marijuana has risen over the same period among Gen Xers and Boomers, though less dramatically. Currently, 53% of Gen Xers and 52% of Boomers say marijuana should be legal, up 19 points and 18 points, respectively, since 2006. Silents have shown far less change. Just 30% say marijuana use should be legal, three points higher than eight years ago.

Boomers' support for marijuana legalization peaked in the late 1970s, before plummeting in the 1980s. But today, Boomers' support for legalizing marijuana is greater than it was four decades ago.

## Views of Immigration Policy

The public has long supported a “path to legalization” for undocumented immigrants in the U.S., though there is less support for allowing them to apply for citizenship.



Majorities across age cohorts say there should be a way for illegal immigrants already in the United States to stay in the country legally if they meet certain requirements.

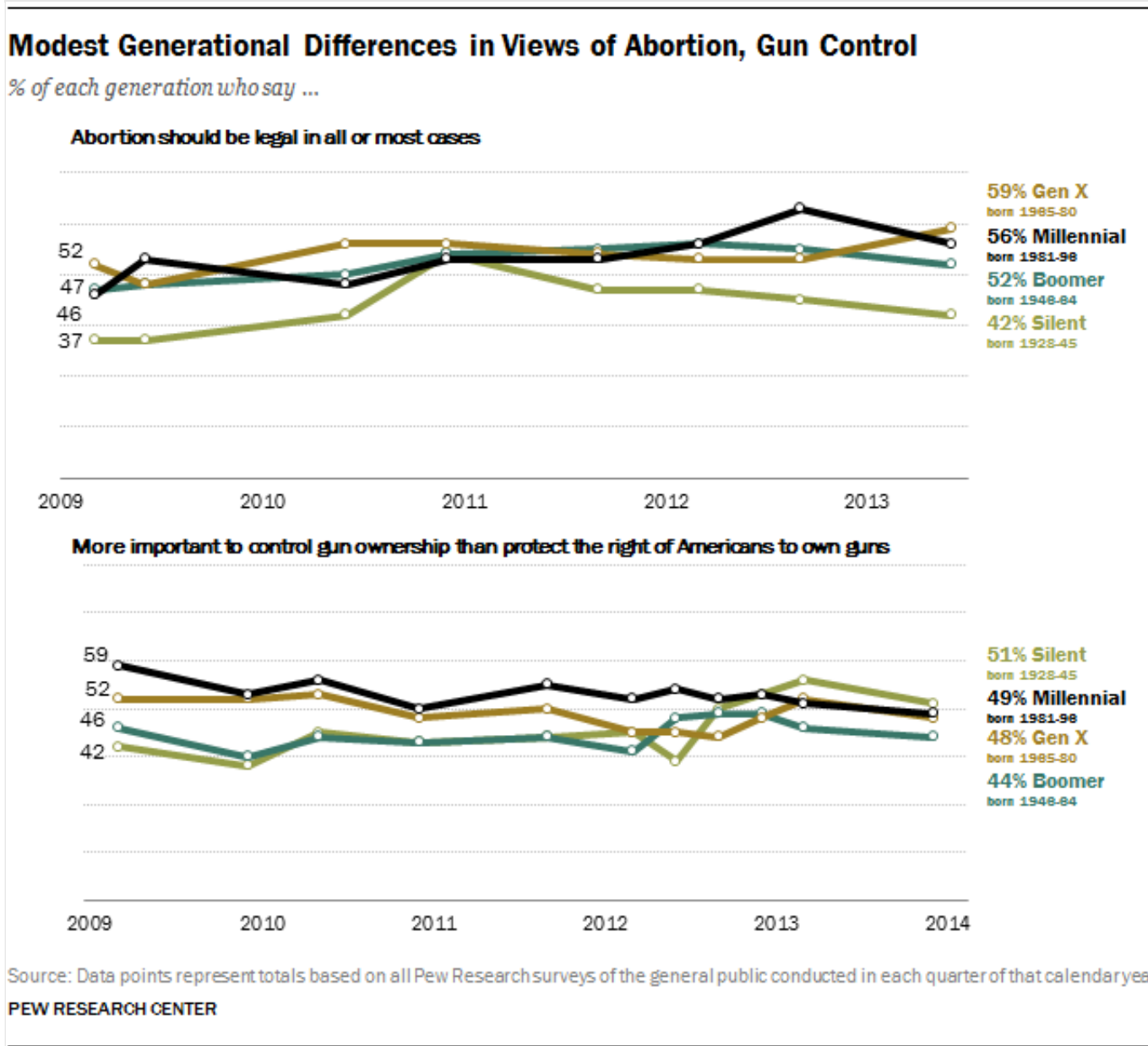
But only among Millennials does a majority say those in the country illegally should be allowed to apply for citizenship; 55% among the youngest cohort favor a path to citizenship, compared with 46% of Gen Xers, 39% of Boomers and 41% of Silents.

## Abortion and Gun Control

Generational patterns are less clear on two other major social issues—abortion and gun control.

In recent years, half or more Millennials, Gen Xers and Boomers have supported legalizing abortion in all or most cases while Silents have been less supportive. Currently, 59% of Gen Xers, 56% of Millennials and 52% of Boomers believe abortion should be legal in all or most cases. In contrast, just 42% of Silents say abortion should

be legal under most circumstances.



There also are modest generational differences in opinions on gun control. Millennials, like older cohorts, are divided over whether it is more important to protect the right of Americans to own guns or more important to control gun ownership. About half of Silents (51%), Millennials (49%) and Gen Xers (48%) and slightly fewer Boomers (44%) say that controlling gun ownership is more important than controlling gun rights.

## Generational Differences over Government's Role

**Support for Bigger Government Highest Among Millennials**

*Would you rather have ...*

	<b>Smaller government, fewer services</b>	<b>Bigger government, more services</b>	<b>Depends/DK</b>
	%	%	%
Total	51	40	9=100
Millennial	38	53	9=100
Gen X	49	43	7=100
Boomer	59	32	8=100
Silent	64	22	14=100

Note: Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Source: Pew Research survey, Sep. 4-8, 2013

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Millennials have long been more supportive than older generations of an activist government. In a September 2013 survey, about half (53%) of Millennials favored a bigger government providing more services—the highest of any generation. Just 38% said they would rather have smaller government providing fewer services.

Majorities of Silents (64%) and Boomers (59%) say they would rather have a smaller government providing fewer services. Gen Xers are divided, with 49% preferring smaller government and 43% bigger government.



**Millennials Disapprove of ACA, But Say Health Coverage for All Is Government's Responsibility**

	View of 2010 health care law		Gov't responsibility to insure coverage for all?	
	Approve	Disapprove	Yes	No
	%	%	%	%
Total	41	54	47	50
Millennial	42	54	54	44
Gen X	43	55	46	50
Boomer	41	54	42	55
Silent	39	54	45	51

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

Source: Figures for health care law from Pew Research survey, Dec. 3-8, 2013; Figures for gov't responsibility from Pew Research survey, Jan. 23-Feb. 9, 2014

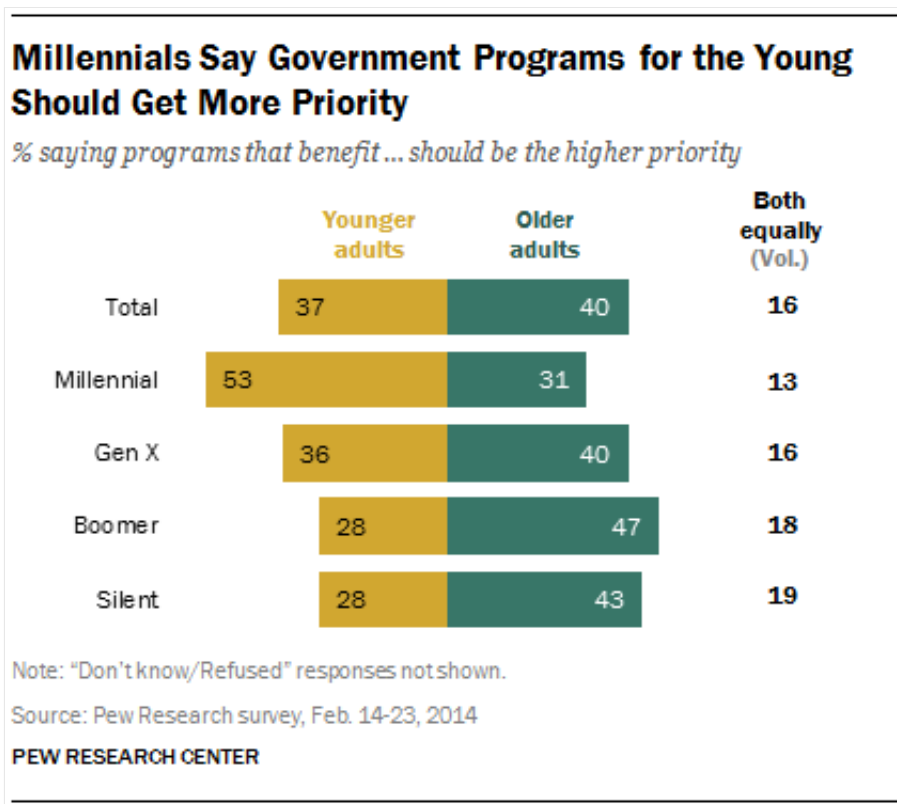
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Notably, Millennials are as skeptical as older generations of the 2010 health care law. **In December 2013**—the most recent Pew Research Center survey on the Affordable Care Act—there were no significant differences across generations in views of the law. About four-in-ten in each cohort approved of the law.

Yet by 54% to 42%, Millennials think it is the federal government's responsibility to make sure all Americans have health care coverage. There is less support among older age cohorts for the government insuring health coverage for all.

### **Higher Priority for Government: Programs for the Young or Old?**

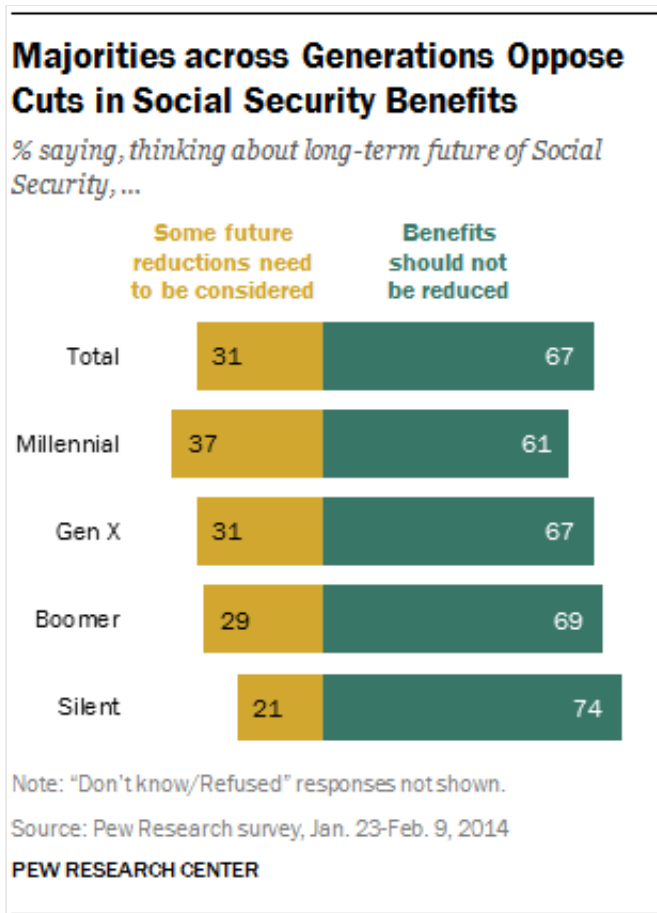
Millennials differ from older generations over the role of government, and they also are more likely to give priority to government programs that benefit younger people.



Millennials are the only age cohort in which more say that government programs benefitting younger people should be a higher priority than programs benefitting older people (53% vs. 31%). There is especially strong support for programs to aid the young among the youngest Millennials (ages 18 to 25): 60% say programs that benefit younger people should be a higher priority for government, compared with 45% of older Millennials.

Gen Xers are divided over whether programs for younger people (36%) or older people (40%) should receive more priority. Boomers and Silents, by wide margins, say that programs that benefit older people should be the higher priority.

## Views of Social Security



Majorities across generations say that in thinking about Social Security's future, benefits should not be reduced in any way. Even among Millennials—those furthest from retirement—more say Social Security benefits should not be reduced by a 61%-37% margin.

At the same time, there is considerable doubt—especially among Millennials and Gen Xers—that Social Security benefits will still exist, much less be funded at current levels, by the time they retire.

Boomers say they expect Social Security will be able to provide some—albeit reduced—benefits. Roughly seven-in-ten Boomers expect to receive benefits at reduced levels (42%) or current levels (26%).

**Half of Millennials and Gen Xers Doubt They'll Receive Any Soc. Sec. Benefits**

<i>When you retire, Social Security will provide ...</i>	<b>Millennial</b>	<b>Gen X</b>	<b>Boomer*</b>
	%	%	%
Benefits at current levels	6	9	26
Benefits at reduced levels	39	36	42
No benefits	51	50	28
Don't know/Ref. (Vol.)	4	5	4
	100	100	100

Note: \*Includes only Boomers under age 65. Based on those ages 18 to 64. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

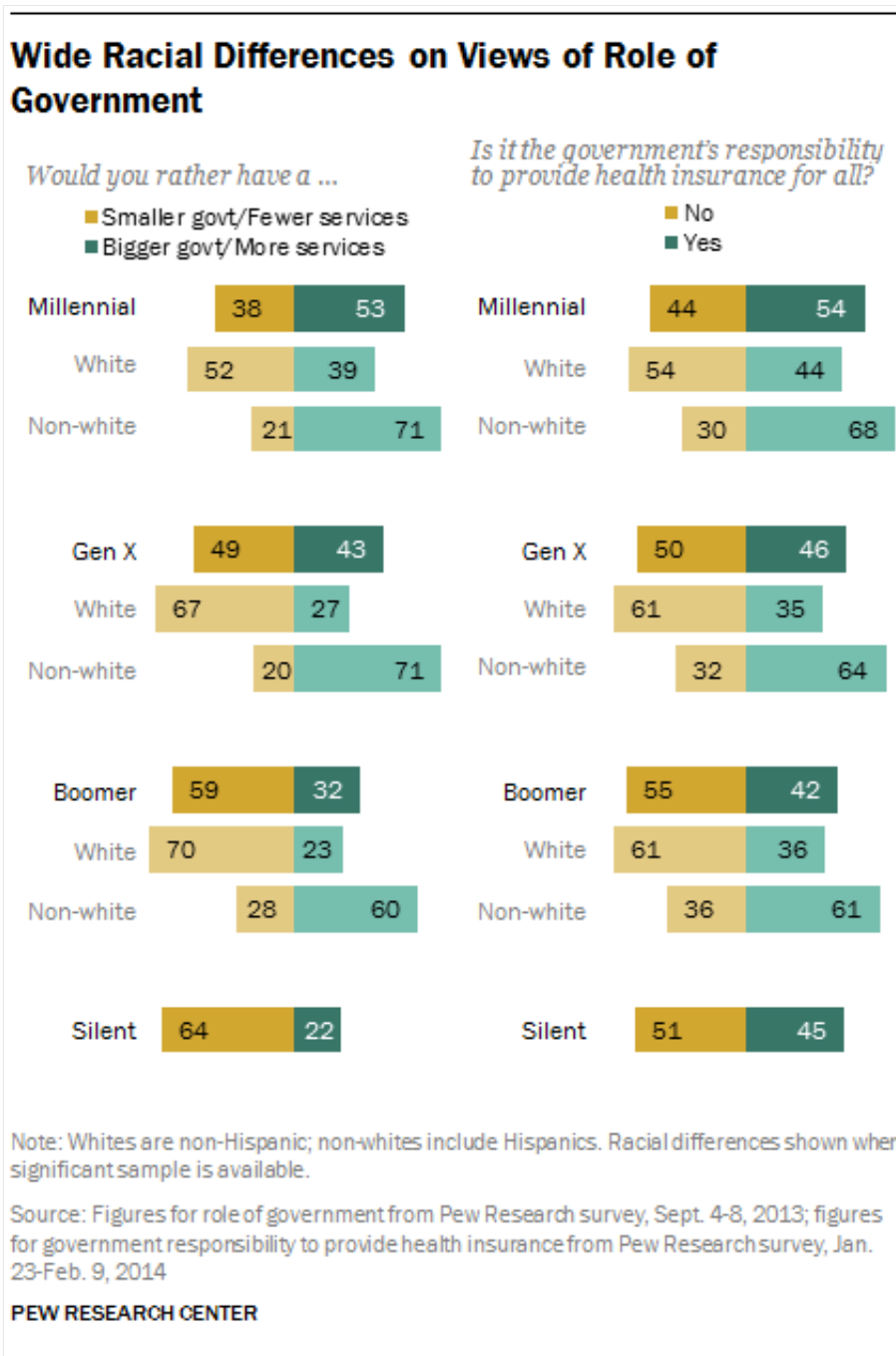
Source: Pew Research survey, Feb. 14-23, 2014

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Millennials and Gen Xers are much more pessimistic. About half of each group (51% of Millennials and 50% of Gen Xers) say that when they retire Social Security will not have enough money to pay any benefits.

## **Age, Race and Views of Issues**

As with many attitudes about politics, there are wide racial differences across generations over the role of government, with non-whites much more supportive than whites of activist government. But in opinions about some social issues—notably same-sex marriage and immigration—the differences are much narrower.

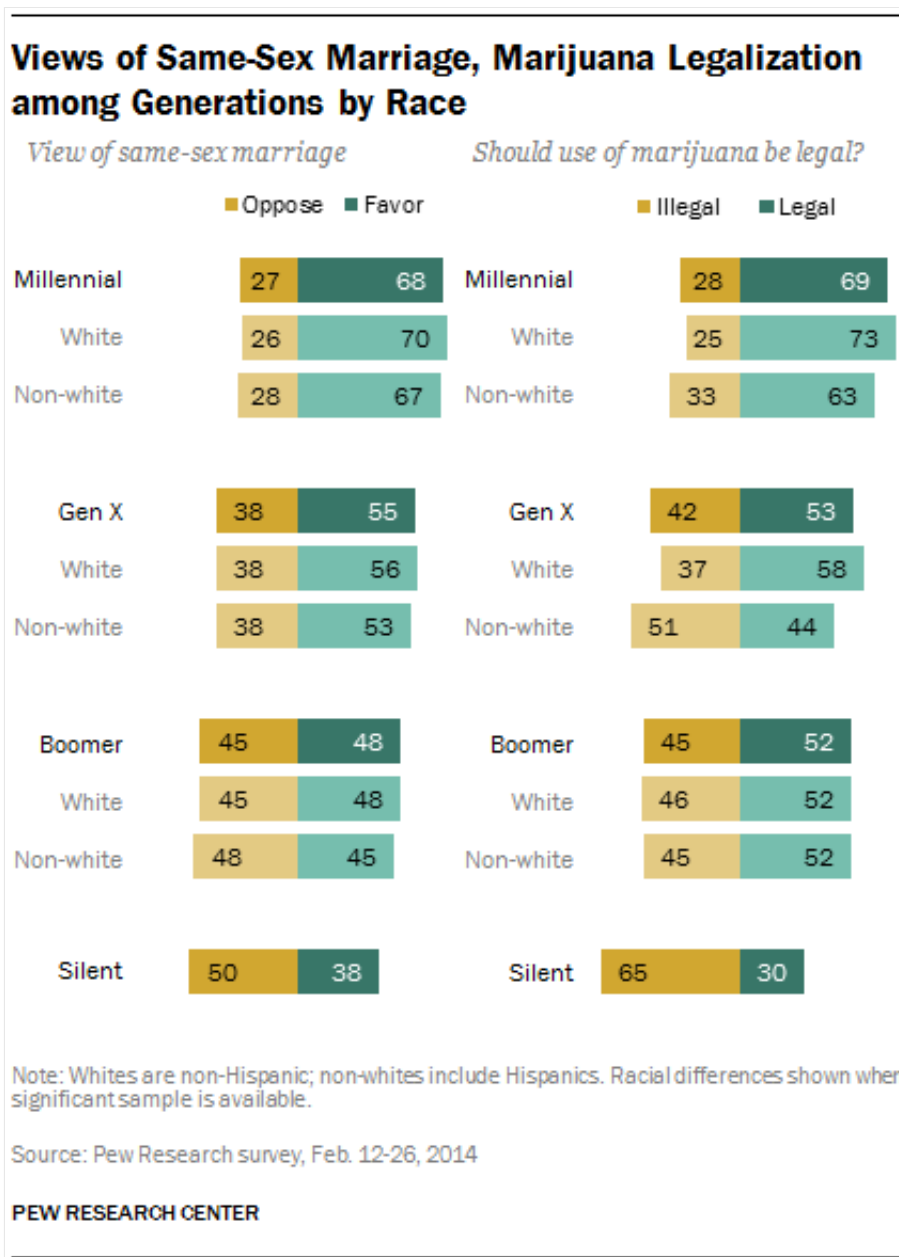


Overall, 53% of Millennials favor a bigger government providing more services. But white Millennials prefer smaller government by 52% to 39%. Non-whites would rather have a bigger government by an even larger margin (71% to 21%).

Similarly, most white Millennials (54%) say it is not the federal government's responsibility to provide health insurance for all; 68% of non-white Millennials say this is the government's responsibility.

A similar pattern of racial and ethnic differences is also evident among Gen Xers and Boomers in views about the size of government and whether it has an obligation to provide health insurance for all. (There are not enough non-white Silents in the surveys to analyze.)

On other issues—such as same-sex marriage and immigration—there are only slight differences in opinions across racial and ethnic groups within generations. For example, white and non-white Millennials offer nearly identical views of same-sex marriage; 70% of whites and 67% of non-whites favor it, and differences are also insignificant among the older cohorts.



White Millennials are also about as likely as non-white Millennials, and more likely than older whites, to say illegal immigrants who meet certain requirements should be allowed to apply for citizenship. About half of white Millennials (53%) and 58% of non-white Millennials favor a path to citizenship. Among the older cohorts, 42% of white Gen Xers and 38% of white Boomers share this view. Among the Silent generation, 41% favor a path to citizenship.

When it comes to the legalization of marijuana, white Millennials are more supportive than non-white Millennials, but majorities in both groups say the use of marijuana



should be legal (73% and 63%, respectively). Among Gen Xers: 58% of whites favor legalization of marijuana, compared with 44% of non-whites.

March 7, 2014

## Millennials in Adulthood

*Detached from Institutions, Networked with Friends*

### Chapter 3: Finances, Social Trends and Technology

#### Economic optimism

Coming of age during the country's deepest economic downturn since the Great Depression has made it much more difficult for Millennials to find their financial footing. And they are still dealing with the fallout from the recession and sluggish recovery. The unemployment rate remains high for this generation—especially those ages 18 to 24, 13% of whom were unemployed in January 2014. The share of young adults living in their parents' home reached an **historic high** in 2012, three years after the recession had ended. And while the **importance of a college degree** has grown, so has the cost. As a result, Millennials are more burdened with **student debt** than any previous generation of young adults.

**Millennials Face a Tougher Economy**

*% saying today's young adults face ... economic challenges than they themselves faced when they were starting out*

	<b>Gen X</b>	<b>Boomer</b>	<b>Silent</b>
More	66	74	68
Fewer	7	5	12
Same	25	20	16
Different/DK	3	2	4

Note: Based on adults ages 34 and older, n=1,192.

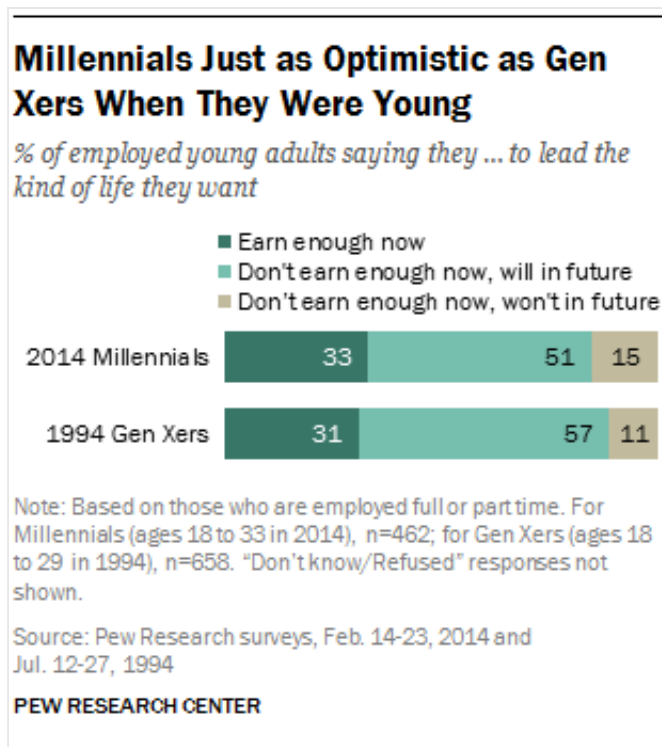
Source: Pew Research survey, Feb. 14-23, 2014

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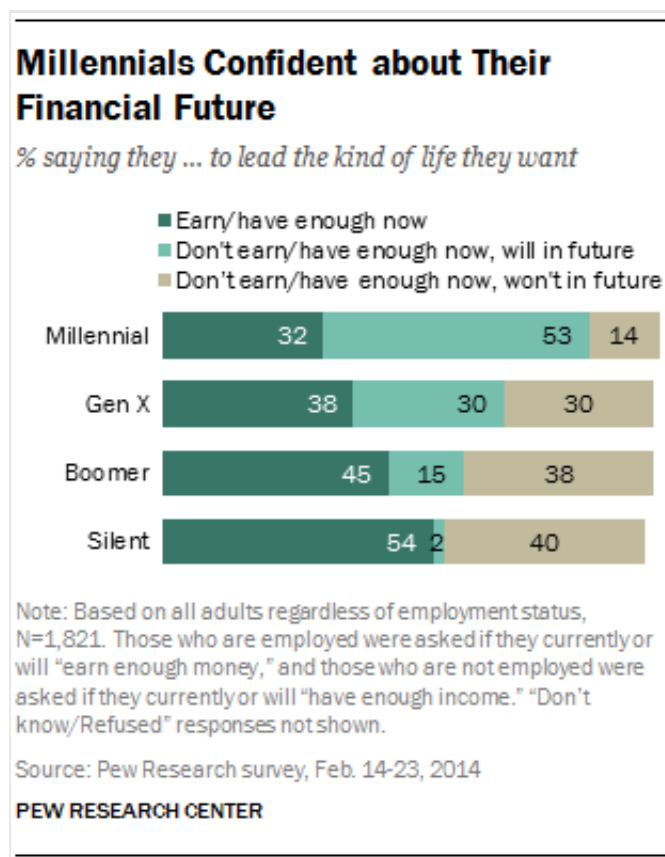
None of this is lost on the public, as solid majorities of Gen Xers (66%), Boomers (74%) and Silents (68%) say young adults today face more economic challenges than they themselves faced when they were first starting out. And Millennials have a similar view. Roughly seven-in-ten Millennials (71%) say that people their age face more economic challenges compared with their parents' generation when they were young.

Among Millennials, there is broad agreement across major demographic subgroups that today's young adults face greater economic challenges than their parents' generation faced when they were starting out. Millennial men and women agree on this, as do Millennials with annual family incomes of \$75,000 or more and those with family incomes of less than \$35,000, and those with and without a college degree.

The economic challenges they face may be causing Millennials to reassess their place in the broader economy. A [January 2014](#) Pew Research poll found that only 42% of Millennials now identify themselves as "middle class." This is down significantly from 2008 when 53% said they were middle class. Perhaps more strikingly, fully 46% of Millennials describe themselves as lower or lower-middle class in the recent survey, up from 25% in 2008.



In spite of the difficult economic hand they have been dealt, Millennials are remarkably optimistic about their future prospects. While they are not as satisfied with their current financial situation as are their older counterparts, they are much more upbeat about their financial futures. Among Millennials who are employed, only 33% in the current poll say they now earn enough to lead the kind of life they want, but fully half (51%) say they will be able to earn enough in the future.



In this regard Millennials are about as optimistic about their financial futures as Gen Xers were when they were a comparable age. A 1994 Pew Research survey found that among employed Gen Xers (who were under age 30 at the time), 31% said they were earning enough to live the kind of life they wanted, an additional 57% said they weren't earning enough but expected to in the future. Gen Xers were coming of age in a much more favorable economic environment than today's Millennials find themselves.

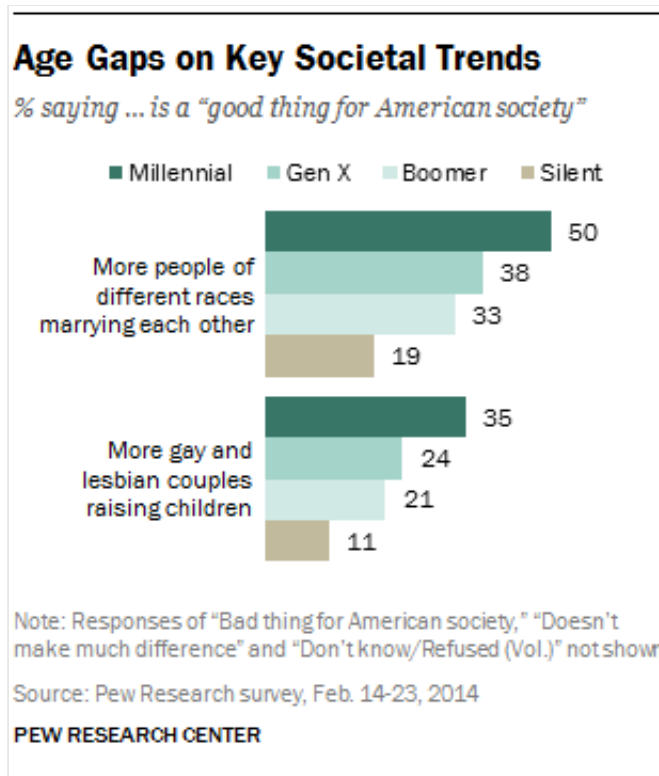
Millennials who are not currently employed are equally bullish about their financial futures. While only 29% say they now have enough income to lead the kind of life they

want, a majority (59%) believe they will have enough income in the future.

Taken together, 85% of Millennials (both employed and not employed) say that they either have enough earnings or income now to lead the kind of life they want or they believe they will in the future. Only 14% say they don't have enough money now and don't anticipate that they will in the future. By comparison, 68% of Gen Xers say they have enough money now or expect to in the future, 60% of Boomers say the same as do 56% of Silents.

Among Millennials, men and women are equally optimistic about their financial futures. College-educated Millennials are much more likely than those without a college degree to say they have enough money now to lead the kind of life they want (52% vs. 26%). And while those without a college degree are more likely to say they are optimistic about their future finances, it is not quite enough to fill the gap. Overall, 91% of college-educated Millennials have or think they will have enough money, compared with 83% of Millennials with less education.

## **Generations Differ Over Key Societal Trends**



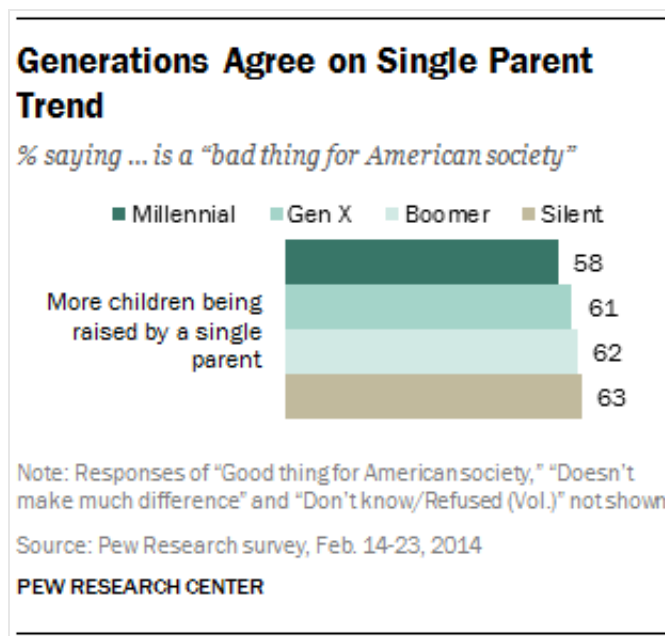
There are sharp age gaps in attitudes when it comes to several of the major social and demographic changes shaping the country today. In some instances, Millennials are more likely than their older counterparts to say these changes are good for society. In other realms, they are more likely to take a "live and let live" attitude.

Respondents were asked about six trends and whether each was a good thing for American society, a bad thing for American society or didn't make much difference for society. When compared with older generations, Millennials have a much more positive view of the rise in interracial marriage. Fully 50% of Millennials say the trend toward more people of different races marrying each other is good for society. By comparison, 38% of Gen Xers, 33% of Boomers and only 19% of Silents say the same. Roughly one-in-five Silents (21%) say this trend is bad for society, compared with just 7% among all younger adults. Among Millennials, whites (49%) and non-whites (50%) are equally likely to view this as a positive trend. In contrast, among older adults, non-whites are more likely than whites to see this as a good thing for society (40% vs. 29%).

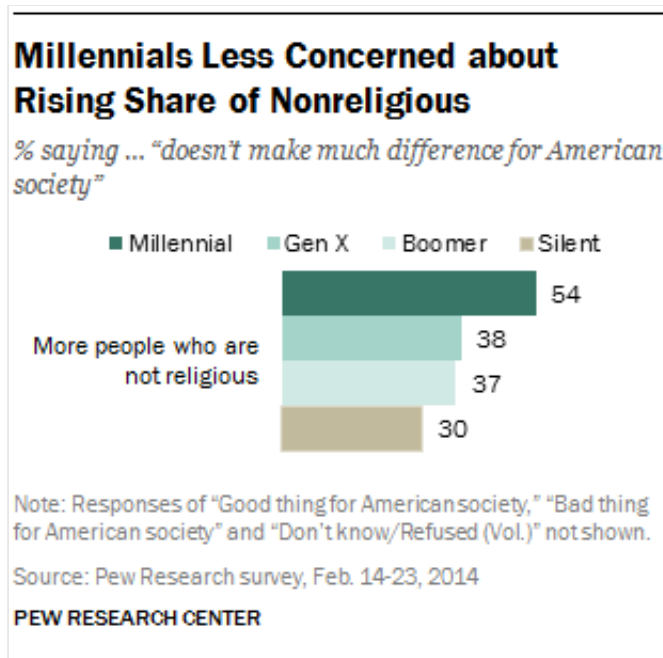
Similarly, Millennials are much more accepting of gay and lesbian couples raising

children. Some 35% of Millennials say this trend is good for society. Among Gen Xers, 24% view this as a positive trend, 21% of Boomers say this is a good thing, as do 11% of Silents. Only 17% of Millennials say this is a bad thing for society, compared with 39% of all older adults.

Another key trend in the realm of marriage and family is the rising share of children being raised by a single parent. There is general agreement across the generations that this trend is not a good thing for society. Fully 58% of Millennials say this is bad for society, and similar shares of Gen Xers (61%), Boomers (62%) and Silents (63%) concur. Very few adults of any age say this trend is good for society.



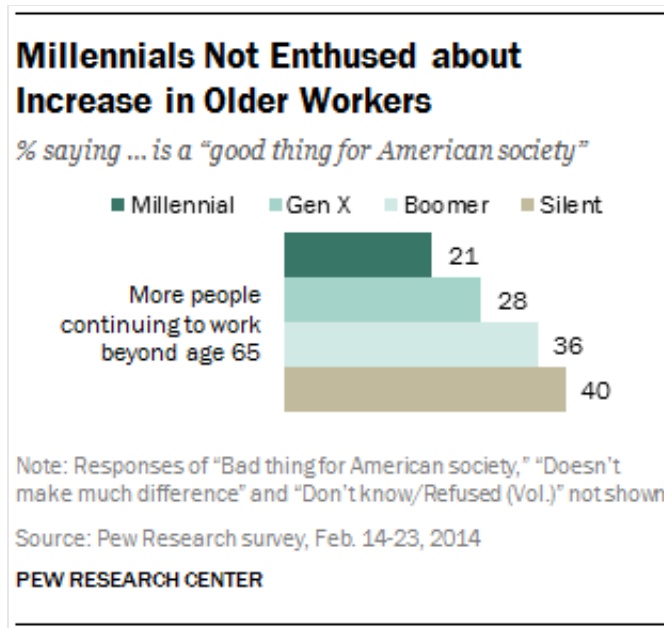
When it comes to changing patterns in religious affiliation and commitment, Millennials tend to take a more neutral position compared with adults from older generations. Relatively few Millennials (13%) say that having more people who are not religious is a good thing for society, but a plurality (54%) say this trend doesn't make much difference. Majorities of Gen Xers and Boomers say this trend is bad for society, as do 57% of Silents.



Among Millennials, those with a college degree are about twice as likely as those without a college degree to say the growing number of people who are not religious is a good thing for society (21% vs. 10%).

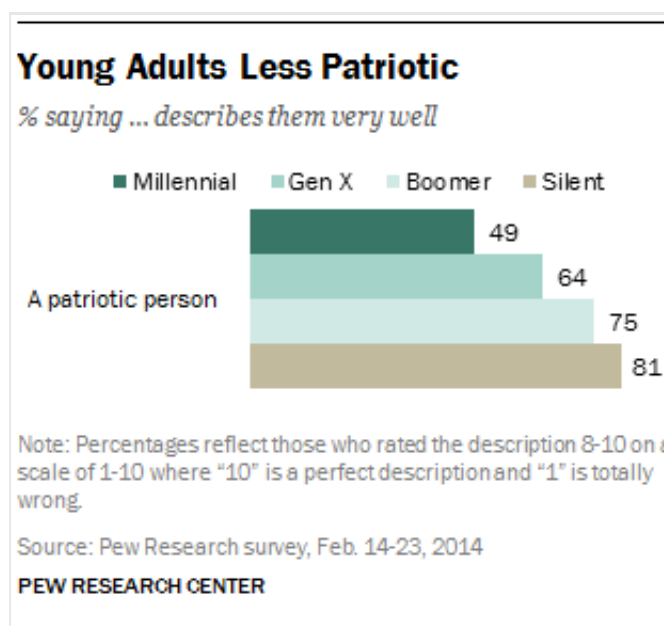
Respondents were also asked about two important generational trends. The first is the trend toward more young adults living with their parents. There is no consensus within any generation as to whether this is a good thing or a bad thing for society. Boomers are somewhat more likely than Millennials to say this is a good thing for society (22% vs. 17%). Millennials themselves are evenly divided over whether this trend is bad for society (41%) or doesn't make much difference (40%).





At the other end of the generational spectrum, respondents were asked whether the trend toward more people continuing to work beyond age 65 was good or bad for society. Gen Xers, Boomers and Silents are significantly more likely than Millennials to view this as a positive trend. Millennials, who have struggled mightily in the labor market, are more than twice as likely as Silents to say this trend is bad for society (47% vs. 21%).

## How the Generations See Themselves

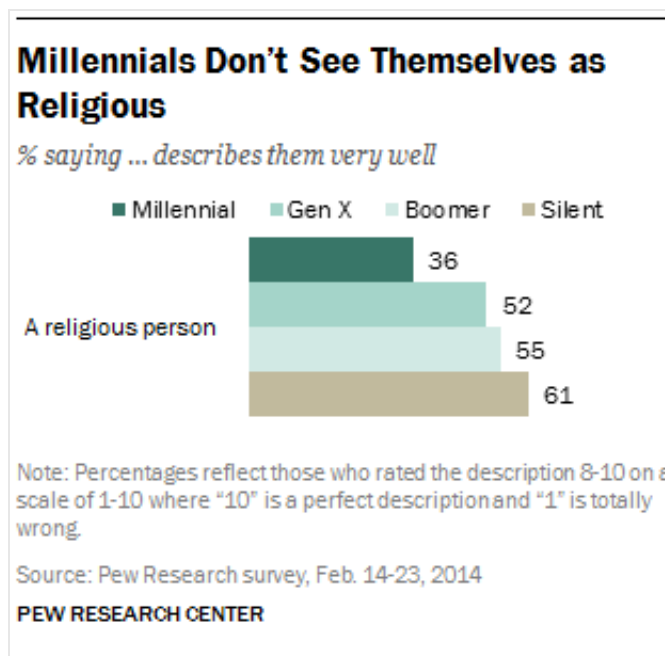


There are sharp differences across age groups in the way adults describe themselves—

the labels they choose to embrace or reject. Survey respondents were given a short list of words and phrases and asked how well each one described them. On each of the four descriptions—which cut across different realms of life—Millennials stand apart from the three older generations. They are less likely to see themselves as patriotic, religious or as environmentalists and more likely to say they are supporters of gay rights.

Overall, 65% of adults say that the phrase “a patriotic person” describes them very well, with 35% saying this is a “perfect” description. Millennials are much less likely than adults in older generations to embrace this label. About half of Millennials (49%) say this description fits them very well. By comparison, 64% of Gen Xers, 75% of Boomers and 81% of Silents say the same.

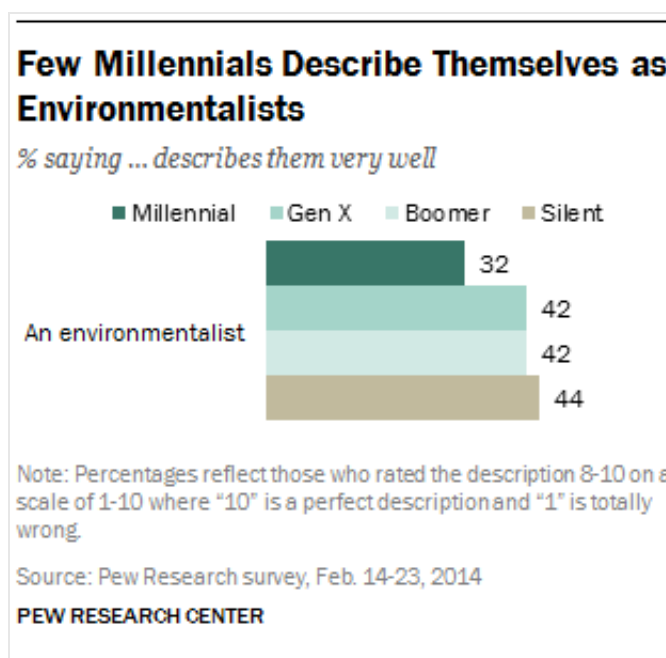
Millennials' relative hesitancy to describe themselves as patriotic may be the result of their stage of life rather than a characteristic of their generation. When Gen Xers were at a comparable age, they were much less likely than their older counterparts to embrace a similar self-description. In a 1999 Pew Research survey, 46% of Gen Xers (ages 19 to 34 at the time) said the word “patriot” described them very well. This compared with 66% among their elders.



Today's young adults are also less likely than middle-aged and older adults to describe

themselves as religious. Roughly a third (36%) of Millennials say the phrase “a religious person” describes them very well. By comparison, half of Gen Xers (52%) and 55% of Boomers say this description fits them very well. And among Silents, about six-in-ten (61%) say this description fits them very well.

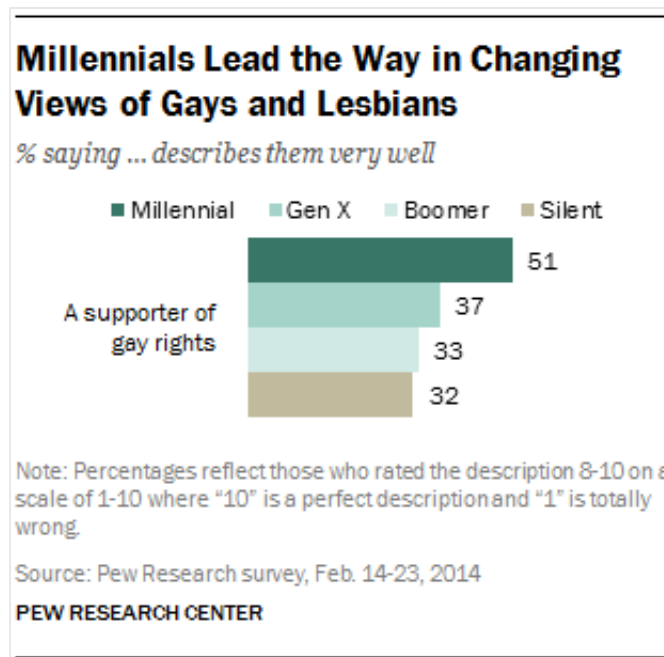
Again, the tendency of Millennials to shy away from this self-description is not unique to this generation of young adults. In 1999, 47% of Gen Xers said that “a religious person” described them very well, compared with 59% of adults ages 35 and older. Still today’s young adults are significantly less likely to identify themselves as religious when compared with Gen Xers at a comparable age (36% vs. 47%).



Millennials are also less likely than Gen Xers were in 1999 to identify themselves as “environmentalists.” In 1999, when Gen Xers were under age 35, roughly four-in-ten (39%) embraced this self-description. Today, only about a third of Millennials (32%) say the word “environmentalist” describes them very well. Gen Xers, (42%) Boomers (42%) and Silents (44%) are significantly more likely to embrace this self-description.

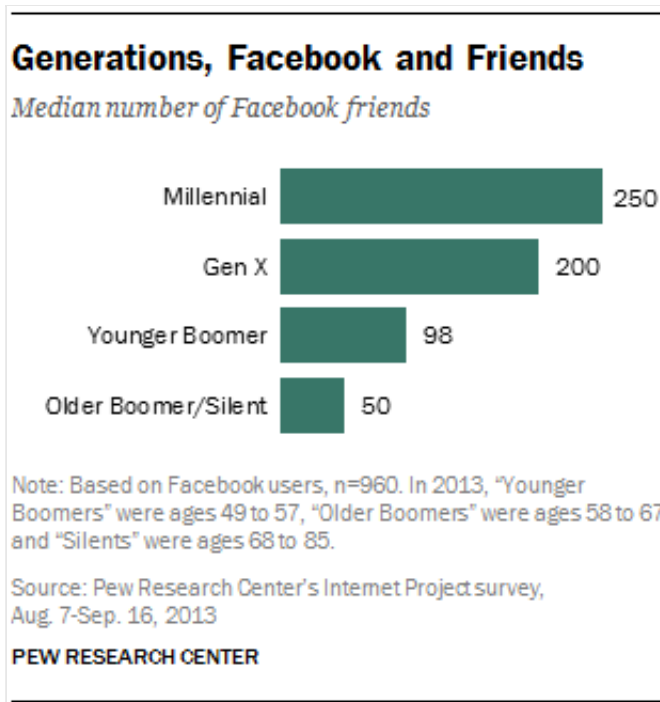
**Public acceptance of gays and lesbians** has grown substantially over the past decade, and young adults are at the forefront of these changing views. Fully half of Millennials (51%) say the phrase “a supporter of gay rights” fits them very well. Gen Xers (37%), Boomers

(33%) and Silents (32%) are significantly less likely to identify with this description.



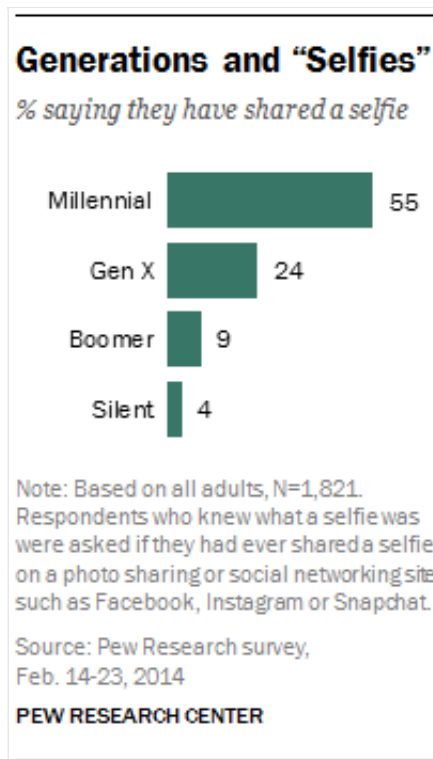
The 1999 Pew Research poll asked respondents how well the phrase “a supporter of the gay rights movement” described them. At that time only 17% of all adults said this phrase described them very well. Gen Xers were more likely than their older counterparts to embrace this description: 22% of adults ages 19 to 34 said this was a good description of them compared with 15% of those ages 35 and older. However, this young-old gap has widened considerably since then, from a six percentage point gap between young Gen Xers and older adults in 1999 to a 17 percentage point gap between young Millennials and older adults today.

## Technology Use



One of the widest and most significant gaps between Millennials and older adults is the way they use technology. A 2012 Pew Research survey found that the public sees a larger gap between young and old in technology use than in their moral values, their attitudes about the changing racial and ethnic makeup of the country or the importance they place on family. Fully 64% of the public said young adults and older adults are very different in the way they use the internet and other technology.

Online social networks are the building blocks of social interaction for many young adults, and these tools have enabled them to create wide-ranging networks of "friends." Data from the [Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project](#) show the generational differences in dramatic fashion. Among Facebook users in 2013, Millennials had, on average, 250 Facebook friends. The median number of Facebook friends among Gen Xers was 200, and the numbers fell off steeply from there. For younger Boomers (ages 49 to 57 in 2013), the median number of Facebook friends was 98 and for Older Boomers and Silents it was 50.

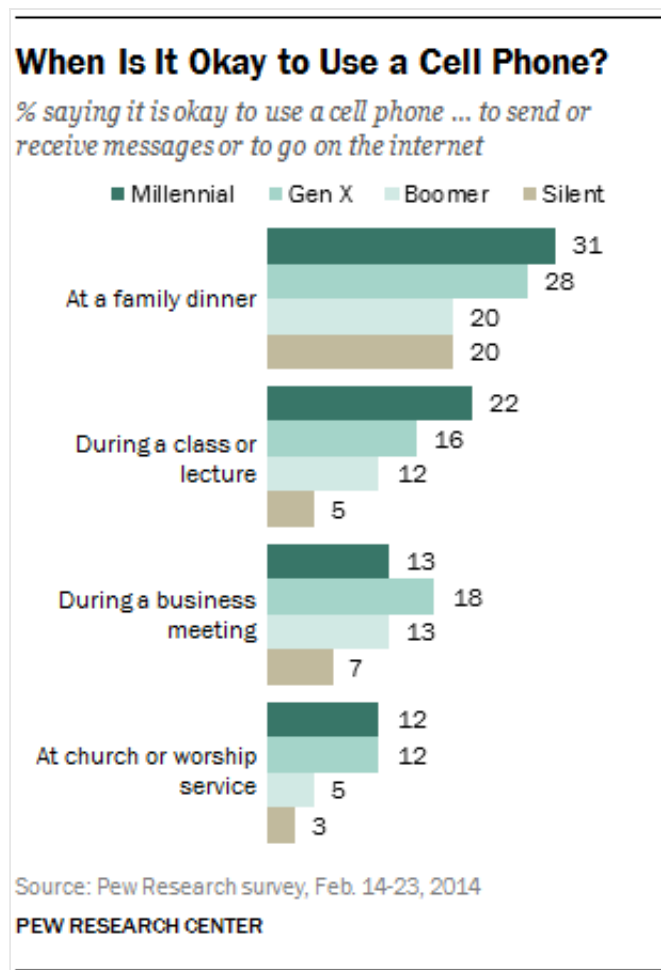


Millennials have led the way on photo sharing as well, so much so that [Oxford Dictionaries](#) word of the year for 2013 was “selfie.” Oxford defines selfie as “a photograph that one has taken of oneself, typically one taken with a smartphone or webcam and uploaded to a social media website.” Millennials are much more likely than adults of other generations to be familiar with this term and, not surprisingly, more likely to have posted a selfie on a social networking site.

About eight-in-ten Millennials (81%) know what a selfie is, and 55% have shared a selfie on a photo sharing or social networking site such as Facebook, Instagram or Snapchat. Millennials are more than twice as likely as Gen Xers to have posted a selfie (24% of Gen Xers have done this). And among Boomers and Silents, the shares are considerably smaller (9% of Boomers and 4% of Silents have posted a selfie).

Among Millennials, women are more likely than men to have posted a selfie (68% vs. 42%). There are no significant differences between white and non-white Millennials nor are there differences by educational attainment. Younger Millennials (ages 18 to 25) are more likely than Millennials ages 26 to 33 to have posted a selfie (62% vs. 46%).

While they may like to post pictures of themselves online, Millennials agree with adults from other generations that, in general, people share too much information about themselves on the internet. Overall, 89% of all adults say people share too much personal information online. Roughly equal shares of Millennials (90%), Gen Xers (91%) and Boomers (89%) express this view. Silents are slightly less likely to say people share too much information (81%) and somewhat more likely to have no opinion on this (12%).



On cell phone usage, there is still a significant generation gap. Nearly all Millennials (96%) and Gen Xers (95%) reported having a cell phone in 2013. Even so, large majorities of Boomers (89%) and Silents (71%) also have cell phones. Compared with older adults, Millennials and Gen Xers have somewhat different standards about when and where cell phones should be used. Overall, the public has a fairly stringent view of when it's appropriate for people to use their cell phones to send or receive messages or



go on the internet. The vast majority of adults say it is not okay to use a cell phone at church or worship service (89%), during a class or lecture (82%) or during a business meeting (81%). About seven-in-ten (72%) say it's not okay to use a cell phone at a family dinner.

Millennials and Gen Xers are more lenient about cell phone use at the dinner table than are their older counterparts. Roughly three-in-ten say it's okay to use a cell phone under these circumstances, only one-in-five Boomers and Silents agree.

Millennials are more likely than any other generation to say it is okay to use a cell phone during a class or lecture. Some 22% of Millennials say this, compared with 16% of Gen Xers, 12% of Boomers and just 5% of Silents.

Boomers and Silents are nearly universally opposed to the idea of using cell phones at religious services, and Silents are the least likely to approve of using cell phones during business meetings.

March 7, 2014

## **Millennials in Adulthood**

*Detached from Institutions, Networked with Friends*

### **Appendix A: Data Sources**

Most of the analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted Feb. 14-23, 2014 among a national sample of 1,821 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, including an oversample of young adults ages 18 to 33 (481 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 1,340 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 786 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used. In order to increase the number of 18 to 33

year-old respondents in the sample, additional interviews were conducted with that cohort by screening a separate random digit dial cell sample. The landline and both cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in both cell samples were conducted with the person who answered the phone if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older (main cell sample) or 18-33 (cell phone youth oversample).

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and nativity and region to parameters from the 2012 Census Bureau's American Community Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The weights account for the oversample by bringing the proportion of 18-33 year olds in the survey into line with that cohort's share of the US population. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2013 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size among respondents with a landline phone. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting.

The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Unweighted sample size</b>	<b>Plus or minus ...</b>
Total sample	1,821	2.6 percentage points
<b>Generations</b>		
Millennial (18-33 year olds)	617	4.6 percentage points
Generation X (34-49 year olds)	351	6.0 percentage points
Baby Boomer (50-68 year olds)	576	4.7 percentage points
Silent (69-86 year olds)	246	7.2 percentage points
Millennial (Form 1/Form 2)	(309/308)	(6.4/6.4) percentage points
Generation X (Form 1/Form 2)	(168/183)	(8.7/8.4) percentage points
Baby Boomer (Form 1/Form 2)	(287/289)	(6.7/6.6) percentage points
Silent (Form 1/Form 2)	(120/126)	(10.3/10.1) percentage points

In addition to the main survey described above, the report is supplemented with public opinion data from surveys conducted Jan. 23-Feb. 9, 2014 and Feb. 12-26, 2014 among national samples of adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States. For the Jan. 23-Feb. 9, 2014 survey, 3,341 total respondents were interviewed; 1,671 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 1,670 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 875 who had no landline telephone). For the Feb. 12-26, 2014 survey, 3,338 total respondents were interviewed; 1,671 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 1,667 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 905 who had no landline telephone).

The surveys were conducted under the direction of Abt SRBI. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://people-press.org/methodology/>.

These two supplemental surveys were weighted to the same parameters as the main survey.

The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in these surveys:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Unweighted sample size</b>	<b>Plus or minus ...</b>
Total sample: Jan. 23-Feb. 9, 2014	3,341	2.0 percentage points
<i>Generations</i>		
Millennial (18-33 year olds)	660	4.4 percentage points
Generation X (34-49 year olds)	676	4.3 percentage points
Baby Boomer (50-68 year olds)	1,308	3.1 percentage points
Silent (69-86 year olds)	591	4.7 percentage points
Total sample: Feb. 12-26, 2014	3,338	2.0 percentage points
<i>Generations</i>		
Millennial (18-33 year olds)	645	4.5 percentage points
Generation X (34-49 year olds)	699	4.3 percentage points
Baby Boomer (50-68 year olds)	1,292	3.1 percentage points
Silent (69-86 year olds)	584	4.7 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request. In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

## Government Data

Some of the data in the Overview used to define the demographic characteristics of each generation are based on the March 2013 Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS is collected monthly by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The CPS is nationally representative of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. Additional documentation on the CPS can be found at <https://cps.ipums.org/cps/>.