

THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

STUDY: Many young adults live with parents

Among adults age 25 to 29, the Inland region is in the top 10 of metro areas where grown folks reside with their mom and dad



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More than one-fourth of young adults in the Inland area live with their parents, who provide a refuge amid tough economic times, an Ohio researcher concludes in a newly released study.

Inland young adults are more likely than most of their peers across the nation to stay in the family home: The Inland region ranked 10th among the nation's 100 largest metropolitan areas in the percentage of adults age 25 to 29 who live with their parents, said Ohio State University sociology professor Zhenchao Qian, author of the study.

The poor economy and the region's large Latino and Asian populations probably are the main reasons, Qian said in a telephone interview Tuesday, July 31.

"Parents provide a safe haven for their kids," Qian said. "When times are rough, it's much easier for young people to fall back on their parents than to share a room with their peers."

About 26 percent of adults ages 25 to 29 in Riverside and San Bernardino counties lived with their parents between 2007 and 2009 — the beginning of the economic crisis — compared with 19 percent nationwide. The Inland area has had some of the nation’s highest unemployment rates throughout most of the downturn.

Los Angeles and Orange counties had a higher proportion — 28 percent — of young adults living with their parents, even though those counties have not been as severely impacted by the economic downturn.

That may be because the higher cost of living there pushed more young people to live with parents, said Vanesa Estrada-Correa, an assistant professor of sociology at UC Riverside and an expert on housing patterns.

The financial benefits of sharing a home can work both ways.

Richard Deanda, 25, said he could have moved out of his parents’ Fontana home long ago. But he is staying put for now.

“For me, it’s to help my parents out financially,” said Deanda, who works at a casino. His father does auto-body work and his mother is a homemaker.

Deanda said living at home also allows him to save money.

The study found that metropolitan areas with big Latino or Asian populations were more likely to have young adults sharing homes with parents. Other research has shown that more Latinos and Asians tend to live in intergenerational households.

Qian said that even when young Asians and Latinos can afford to leave their parents’ homes, they are more likely than whites to remain at home.

The Inland region has one of the largest proportions of Latino residents of any big metro area in the country — 48 percent. Only about 6 percent of the Inland population is Asian, but the number living in the region has tripled since 1990, outpacing the Latino growth rate.

The new study is the latest evidence that the economy and the growth in the Latino and Asian population are changing the composition of Inland households.

Between 2000 and 2010, the average number of people living in a home in Riverside County rose from 2.98 to 3.14, and in San Bernardino County from 3.15 to 3.26.

Nationally, there’s been a long-term trend toward more young adults living at home, except during the years of strong economic growth in the 1990s, the study found.

The trend in part is a result of people marrying at a later age today than they did a few decades ago, the report found.

Between 1980 and 2009, the median age for first marriage rose from 24.7 years old to 28.1 for men, and from 22.0 to 25.9 for women.

Qian's study is an analysis of U.S. Census Bureau estimates from 2007 to 2009 and is part of Brown University's US2010 Project, which tracks changes in U.S. society.