

Baby Boomers Approach Age 60

From the Age of Aquarius To the Age of Responsibility

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A Social Trends Report

From the Age of Aquarius To the Age of Responsibility

I. Introduction and Overview

As they advance toward the threshold of old age, the nation's 75 million baby boomers are in an extended "sandwich" phase of their family life cycle, with many either raising minor children or providing financial and other forms of support to adult children or to aging parents.

In the past year, 50% of all boomers were raising one or more young children and/or providing primary financial support to one or more adult children.

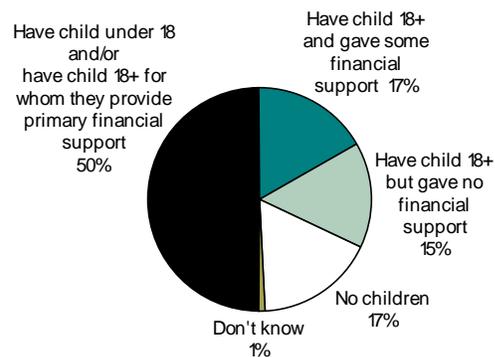
Another 17% whose only children are ages 18 and older were providing some financial assistance to at least one such child, according to a Pew Research Center survey that explores intergenerational relationships within families.

In addition, two-in-ten boomers were providing some financial assistance to a parent.

The boomers currently range in age from 41 through 59 -- meaning that, like middle-aged generations before them, they are in a stage of life when it is natural to give more than to take when it comes to relationships with both parents and children.

Baby Boomers and Their Children

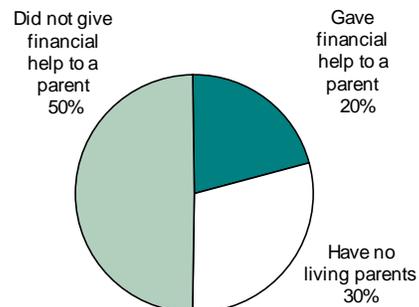
Percentage of all boomers, ages 41-59, providing financial support in the past year to a child



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Baby Boomers and Their Parents

Percentage of all boomers providing financial support in the past year to a parent



Less than one percent gave a don't know response

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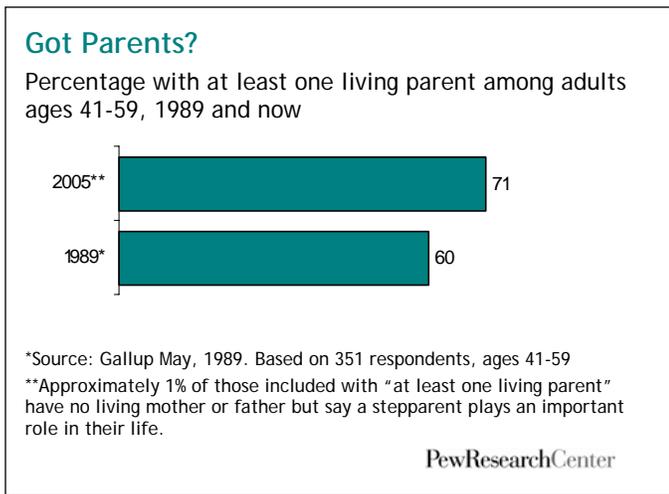
However, changing demographics within families have prolonged this sandwich period for boomers. At a time in life when many are looking ahead to their own retirement, boomers are likely either to have parents who are still living, children who are still young or adult children who are still in need of financial support.

To be sure, few boomers bear all of these responsibilities simultaneously. For example, only about 13% of boomers are providing some financial support to an elderly parent at the same time they are also either raising a minor child or supporting an adult child. Still, most boomers are playing at least one of these roles, meaning that, at a relatively advanced stage of their own life cycle, they have a relatively full plate of family responsibilities.

Boomers are more likely to have living parents. Thanks to advances in life expectancy, 71 percent of today’s boomers have at least one living parent, whereas in 1989, just 60 percent of people who were ages 41-59 reported that they had at least one living parent, according to a Gallup survey. Even though today’s elderly are more likely than the elderly of previous generations to enjoy higher income levels and better health, many still rely on their boomer children for assistance of one kind or another, be it caregiving or help with household errands.

But this reliance is not one-sided—as with most kin to kin relationships, support flows in both directions. When asked who relies more on whom – you or your parents, 25% of boomers say their parents rely more on them, 10% say they rely more on their parents, and 11% volunteer that they rely on one another equally. A majority (53%) say neither parent nor child relies on the other.

Boomers’ reports of their financial exchanges with parents generally mirror this two-way pattern of felt



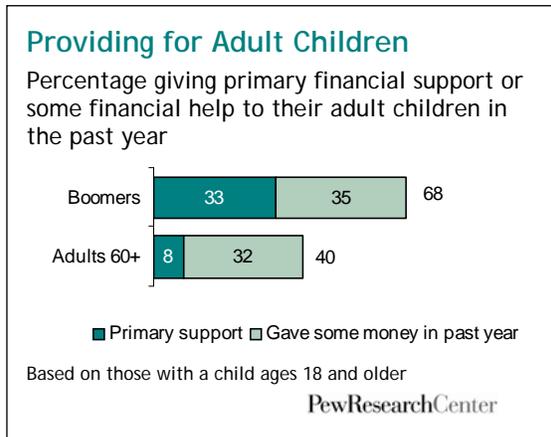
Got Kids?

	All Adults	Adults 18-40	Boomers 41-59	Adults 60+
	%	%	%	%
Parenting Status				
Have children	73	57	83	89
Have children under 18 only	28	52	20	*
Have children 18 and older only	36	1	44	87
Have both	9	4	19	2
No children	27	43	17	11
Don't know/Refused	*	*	*	*
	100	100	100	100
NET Have children under 18	37	56	39	2
NET Have children 18 and older	45	5	63	88

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reliance. Some 29% of boomers who have a parent say they gave financial support to a parent in the past year and 19% of boomers with a parent report receiving financial support from a parent.

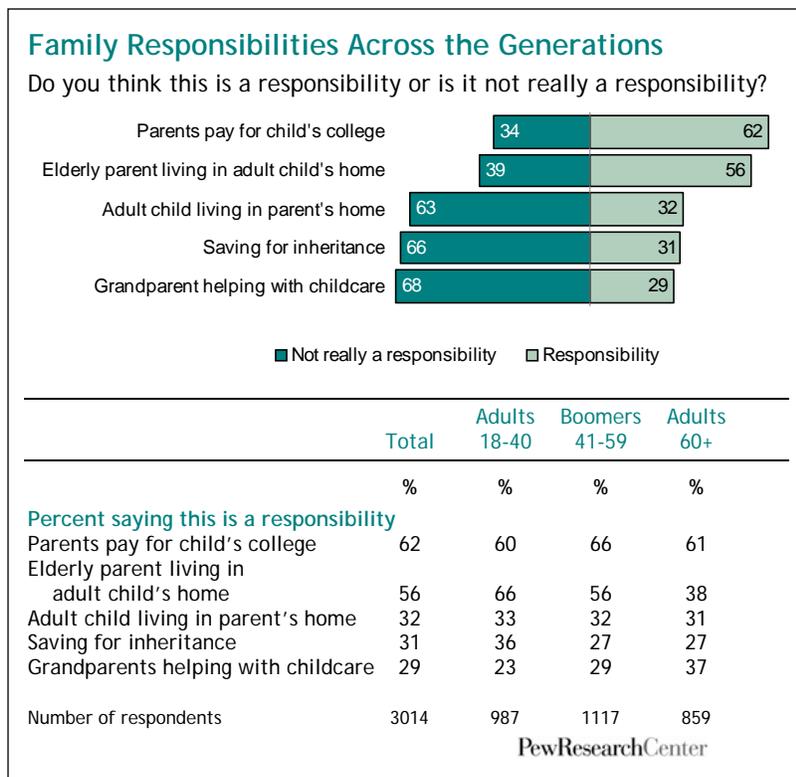
Boomers are likely to have grown children in financial need. When it comes to providing financial support for children, the parental role now typically extends beyond the time when a child is a minor. Some 63% of all boomers have at least one child ages 18 and older, and of this group of boomer parents, about two thirds (68%) are supporting an adult child financially, either as the primary (33%) or secondary (35%) source of support.



Today’s young adults are more likely than young adults in previous generations to be burdened by heavy expenses or debt, and it is possible that the pattern of financial support by parents to adult children reflects the steadily rising cost of “big ticket” coming-into-adulthood expenses such as college tuition or the purchase of a home. In the past twenty years the cost of both college tuition and buying a first home has roughly doubled in inflation-adjusted dollars, and in the past 10 years the number of young adults with a federal student loan has also nearly doubled¹.

What’s a family responsibility? When boomer parents provide financial support for their children’s college costs, they are fulfilling what they and most other Americans view as a basic responsibility of parenthood.

Of five different kinds of intrafamily, multi-generational exchanges tested in this survey, paying for college is the one that the greatest number of



¹ See Trends in College Pricing. (2005) The College Board; Trends in Student Aid. (2003). The College Board; Housing Facts, Figures and Trends. (2004). National Association of Home Builders.

Americans of all ages and backgrounds view as a responsibility. Some 62% of the adult population – and 66% of all boomers – describe it that way.

A small majority of boomers also say it is a parent’s responsibility to take into one’s home an elderly parent who wishes to move in. On the other hand, a solid majority of boomers, along with the rest of the adult population, do not view it as a parent’s responsibility to take an adult child into one’s home or to save for a child’s inheritance, nor do they view it as grandparent’s responsibility to help out with child care.

Satisfaction with family life

Nine-in-ten boomers say they are very (72%) or somewhat (18%) satisfied with their family life, and in these assessments, they are in sync with adults who are younger and older than they are.

There is virtually no difference in these assessments of family life between boomers who are providing financial assistance to parents or adult children and those who are not. However, among the 13% of boomers who have an

elderly parent needing help to care for himself or herself there is less overall contentment with family life. Just 65% of boomers who have a parent in that sort of need say they are very satisfied with their family life; by contrast, 75% of boomers who have a parent able to handle these things on his or her own say they are very satisfied with their family life.

Looking Ahead As boomers look ahead toward their own old age, their crystal ball is a bit cloudy but there is no widespread sense of foreboding. The generation whose iconic youthful rallying cry was to “never trust anyone over 30” apparently doesn’t feel so bad about approaching a chronological milestone twice that number. The oldest

Boomers Content with Family Life

	All Adults	Adults 18-40	Boomers 41-59	Adults 60+
	%	%	%	%
Satisfaction with family life				
Very satisfied	72	74	72	71
Somewhat satisfied	19	19	18	17
Somewhat dissatisfied	4	4	5	4
Very dissatisfied	3	3	4	3
Does not apply (vol.)	1	*	1	3
Don’t know	<u>1</u>	*	*	<u>2</u>
	100	100	100	100
Number of respondents	3014	987	1117	859

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Which Generation Will Enjoy Old Age the Most?

	Total	Adults 18-40	Boomers 41-59	Adults 60+
	%	%	%	%
Your generation	33	26	33	47
Parent’s generation	24	33	26	8
Children’s generation	31	31	31	31
Don’t know	<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>14</u>
	100	100	100	100
Number of respondents	3014	987	1117	859

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boomers will turn 60 in January.

Asked which generation will enjoy old age the most, a slight plurality of boomers (33%) say that theirs will. The remainder say either that their parents' generation (26%) or their children's generation (31%) will. Older boomers (ages 51-59) are more optimistic than younger boomers (ages 41-50) about their prospects in old age, with 38% of older boomers saying their generation will enjoy old age the most but only 29% of younger boomers expressing that view.

And despite gloomy assessments from many economists and politicians about the fiscal crunch that society will face once this famously outsized generation hits retirement age, boomers are cautiously optimistic when they contemplate their own financial situation in retirement.

About a quarter (26%) of boomers say they expect to "live very comfortably" once they retire; another 29% say they will be able to "meet expenses with a little left over"; and another 24% say they will be able to "just meet basic living expenses." Some 17 percent, however, say they will "not have enough for the basics" and this level of apprehension is slightly higher among boomers than it is among current retirees (12% feel this way) or among adults ages 18 to 40 (10% feel this way).

These findings are from a telephone survey of a nationally representative, randomly-selected sample of 3,014 adults, including 1,117 boomers, that was conducted from Oct. 5 through Nov. 6, 2005.

About the Survey

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted with a nationally representative sample of adults, ages 18 years and older, living in continental U.S. telephone households.

- Interviews conducted October 5-November 6, 2005
- 3,014 interviews of which 1,117 were conducted with boomers, ages 41 to 59.
- Margin of sampling error is plus or minus 2 percentage points for results based on the total sample at the 95% confidence level and 3.5 percentage points for results based on all boomers. The margin of sampling error is higher for results based on subgroups of respondents.

Survey interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish.

Bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias in the findings of opinion polls.

II. Portrait of a Generation

Before describing the findings in more detail, a few words about the generation known as the boomers. They were born over a 19 year span (1946-1964), which means that different boomers grew up in different times – from the quiet 1950s to the turbulent 1960s to the economically-stressed 1970s.

As political animals, boomers are a diverse breed – their partisan identification and political ideology are as varied as the population’s as a whole, according to Pew Research Center surveys conducted in 2005. Moreover, economic analyses show there is more income disparity among boomers than among older or younger age cohorts².

Boomers by the Numbers

The bulge in birth rates between 1946 and 1964 that defines the Baby Boom generation is estimated to represent an increase of 7 to 15 million over the expected population growth during that period.

- 76 million babies born 1946 to 1964
- 75 million adults, ages 41-59, today
- 26% of all U.S. residents today

Median household income for boomers is higher than that for all adults according to the U.S. Census Bureau estimates.

- Boomers:
\$60,000 median household income in 2004
- All adults:
\$44,500 median household income in 2004

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, National Center for Health Statistics

In short, there’s plenty of heterogeneity among boomers. Yet this generation has often been treated by commentators as having a distinctive identity. And in one key respect – size – it does. The explosion in birthrates that began in 1946 (immediately after World War II) and ended nearly as abruptly in 1964 was a unique demographic event in this country’s history. In between two relatively small generations, a huge number of children were born, 76 million.

Because of the boomers’ vast number, the broader society has frequently found itself adjusting to the rhythms of the boomer life cycle – for example, by going on a school construction binge in the 1950s or by adjusting to the youth-driven counterculture of the 1960s.

Back then, the exuberance, idealism and self-absorption of the boomers was famously spoofed by the 1968 rock musical “Hair” and its signature song lyric: “This is the dawning of the Age of Aquarius.”

Nearly four decades later, with the oldest of the boomers at the front door of old age, the sheer bulk of the generation is once again presenting society with a set of challenges: how to maintain living standards and sustain a productive economy when the number of retirees will soon be growing much faster than the number of workers.

² See Mary Elizabeth Hughes and Angela M. O’Rand. (2005). The Lives and Times of the Baby Boomers. In Reynolds Farley and John Haaga, eds., *The American People: Census 2000*. Russell Sage Foundation and the Population Reference Bureau.

As for the boomers themselves, most are finding that they are not in Age of Aquarius but in the age of responsibility as they juggle the multiple demands of their prolonged “sandwich” phase of family life.

A Demographic Profile

Compared with the rest of the adult population, boomers are more likely to be prosperous, to be married, and to have gone through a divorce. Generally, these differences between boomers and adults who are older and younger are in keeping with their respective stages of the adult life cycle.

Seven-in-ten boomers are currently married, compared with 45% for younger adults and six-in-ten for older adults, according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau. The Pew Research Center survey finds that some 38% of all boomers have been divorced, compared with 13% of younger adults and 28% of older adults.

Four-in-ten boomers report an annual family income of \$75,000 or above, compared with 29% of younger adults and 17% of older adults. And just 21% of boomers say they have a family income below \$30,000, compared with 31% of younger adults and nearly half (48%) of older adults.

About three-in-ten boomers (31%) have graduated from college, compared with 24% of

How Do Boomers Compare?

	All Adults	Adults 18-40	Boomers 41-59	Adults 60+
	%	%	%	%
Gender				
Male	48	50	49	44
Female	52	50	51	56
Race and Ethnicity				
White	83	80	84	87
Black	11	13	11	8
Hispanic (any race)	12	17	10	6
Family Income				
Less than \$30,000	31	31	21	48
\$30,000 to under \$50,000	20	21	18	21
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	18	19	20	13
\$75,000 or more	30	29	40	17
Education				
High school graduate or less	51	48	47	63
Some college or technical	23	28	22	17
College graduate or more	26	24	31	21
Employment Status				
Full-time	47	53	61	14
Part-time	14	18	13	9
Not employed	38	30	26	78
Retired or semi-retired	16	*	4	67
Current Marital Status				
Currently married	58	45	70	60
Not married	42	55	30	40

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2004 Annual Social and Economic Supplement

Marriage and Divorce

	All Adults	Adults 18-40	Boomers 41-59	Adults 60+
	%	%	%	%
Experience with Marriage and Divorce				
Ever married	77	58	89	97
Have been divorced	24	13	38	28
Never divorced	53	45	51	69
Don't know/Refused	*	*	*	*
Never married	22	42	10	3
Don't know/Refused	1	*	1	*
	100	100	100	100
Number of respondents	3014	987	1117	859

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younger adults and 21% of older adults.

Some 84% of boomers are white, compared with 83% of the adult population as a whole. Nonetheless, there are generational differences in race and ethnicity. The biggest component of this difference is the percentage of Hispanics within different adult generations -- it rises from 6% among those who are 60 and older to 10% among boomers to 17% among those ages 18 to 40. The percentage of adults who are black also rises slightly from 8% among those ages 60 and older to 11% among the boomers to 13% among adults 18-40.

Older Boomer, Younger Boomer

In the intergenerational composition of their families, younger boomers have a somewhat different profile from older boomers. Some 64% of boomers ages 41 to 50 have at least one living parent and one child, whereas just 48% of boomers ages 51 to 59 are in this situation – mainly because the older boomers are more likely to have parents who are no longer living.

The age profile of boomer children also varies. Older boomers are more likely to have adult children while the children of younger boomers are more varied in age.

Intergenerational Family Composition, Older vs. Younger Boomers

	All Boomers (41-59)	Younger Boomers (41-50)	Older Boomers (51-59)
	%	%	%
Parents Living*			
At least one parent living	71	79	41
No parents living	<u>29</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>59</u>
	100	100	100
Have Children			
Have children	83	82	84
Have children under 18 only	20	31	5
Have children 18 and older only	44	25	70
Have both	19	26	9
No children	17	18	16
Don't know/Refused	*	*	-
	100	100	100
Multiple Generations			
Parent living and children of any age	57	64	48
Children only	26	18	36
Parent only	13	15	11
Neither	4	3	5
Don't know/Refused	*	*	-
	100	100	100
Number of respondents	1117	604	513

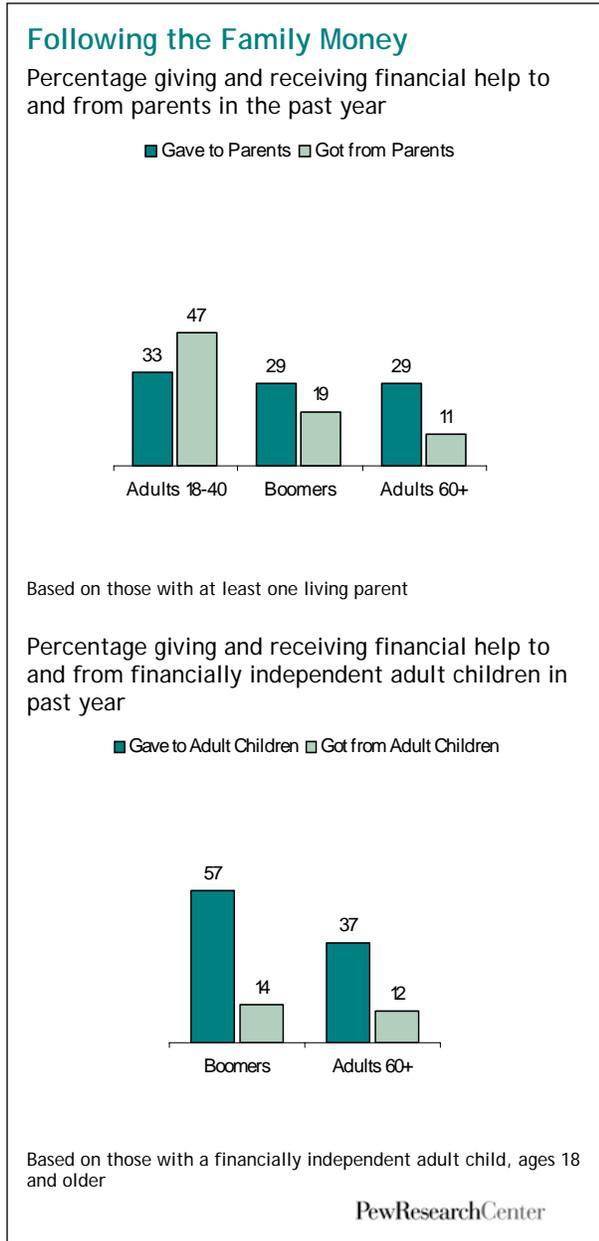
*Approximately 1% of those included with "at least one living parent" have no living mother or father but say a stepparent plays an important role in their life. Approximately 1% of those included with "no parents living" said don't know or refused.

III. Key Findings

In their financial exchanges with both parents and adult children, boomers are more likely to give than receive.

Nearly three-in-ten (29%) boomers who have at least one living parent say they provided some financial assistance to a parent in the past year. Nearly six-in-ten (57%) boomers who have a financially independent adult child say they provided some financial assistance to that adult child in the past year³. Boomers also received financial assistance from both parents and financially independent adult children in the past year, but much less frequently. Just 19 percent of boomers who have a living parent say they received financial support from a parent in the past year, and just 14 percent of boomers who have a financially independent adult child say they received financial assistance from such a child in the past year.

While boomers are more likely than any other living generation to give money both to parents and grown children, they are by no means alone in helping out in this manner. Some 37% of adults ages 60 and older who have financially independent grown children report giving money to one such child in the past year. And while not many adults ages 60 and older have a living parent, of those who do, 29% report giving money to a parent in the past year. Meantime, about a third (33%) of younger adults (those ages 18 to 40) who have a living parent report giving money to a parent in the last year, while 47% report receiving money from a parent.



³ A financially independent adult child refers to a child ages 18 and older for whom the parent says he or she is not providing primary financial support.

Financial Flow To and From

Financial help to and from at least one parent in the past year

	Adults 18-40	Boomers 41-59	Adults 60+
	%	%	%
Gave financial help to a parent			
Yes	33	29	29
No	67	71	70
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100	100
Received financial help from a parent			
Yes	47	19	11
No	52	80	88
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100	100
Number of respondents	945	780	126

Based on those with at least one living parent

Financial help to and from at least one financially independent adult child in the past year

	Boomers 41-59	Adults 60+
	%	%
Gave financial help to an adult child		
Yes	57	37
No	42	63
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100
Received financial help to an adult child		
Yes	14	12
No	85	88
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100
Number of respondents	598	747

Based on those with a financially independent adult child, ages 18 and older

Some 42% of boomers who gave money to a parent in the past year say they did so on a regular basis, while about half (52%) say they did so for special circumstances. Of those boomers who received money from a parent, three-quarters say it was for special circumstances and 24% say it was on a more regular basis.

Nearly three-quarters (72%) of boomers who gave money to financially independent adult children say they did so for special circumstances, while 23% say they did so on a more regular basis. There are too few boomers who report receiving money from their adult children for an analysis of the circumstances. Among all adults receiving money from adult children, most said it was for special circumstances (67%) rather than on a more regular basis (26%).

When Do Parents Give and Take?

	Money Received from Parents		Money Given to Parents	
	All Adults	Boomers 41-59	All Adults	Boomers 41-59
	%	%	%	%
Financial help was for...				
Special circumstances	65	75	48	52
On a more regular basis	30	24	46	42
Both (vol.)	3	1	4	4
Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100	100	100
Number of respondents	599	154	559	217

Based on those receiving from or giving financial help to parents in the past year

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When Do Adult Children Give and Take?

	Money Received from Children		Money Given to Children	
	All Adults		All Adults	Boomers 41-59
	%		%	%
Financial help was for...				
Special circumstances	67		72	72
On a more regular basis	26		23	23
Both (vol.)	1		4	4
Don't know	<u>6</u>		<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	100		100	100
Number of respondents	173		653	347

Based on those receiving from or giving financial help to a financially independent adult child, ages 18 and older, in the past year

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In their patterns of giving and receiving to parents, today's boomers are no different from adults who were ages 41 to 59 in 1989. Back then, these middle-aged adults reported nearly identical levels of giving money to and receiving money from adult parents as do today's boomers (although in 1989, just 60% of 41 to 59 year olds had a living parent, whereas today, 71% do). They also reported similar levels of other forms of assistance, such as helping with errands or child care.

Finally, a word of caution about all these numbers. When one matches responses about who has given money to other generations within their family with responses about who has received money from other generations within the family, the numbers do not always line up. For example, just 14% of boomers and 12% of adults ages 60 and older say that they have received money from an adult child in the past year; however, 33% of young adults and 29% of boomers say they have given money to a parent in the past year. This pattern could arise for several reasons, including the fact that, humans being humans, people might be better able to remember or to find it more socially desirable to report their giving rather than their getting.

Patterns of Giving, Getting Largely Unchanged

Those in the same stage of the life cycle in 1989 report a similar pattern of giving and receiving from their parents.

	1989* Ages 41-59	2005 Ages 41-59
	%	%
Percent Gave to Parents		
Gifts	93	85
Help w/ errands or housework	70	64
Financial help	29	29
Percent Received from Parents		
Gifts	73	68
Help w/ errands or housework	23	27
Help w/ childcare	12	17
Financial help	21	19
Number of respondents	209	780

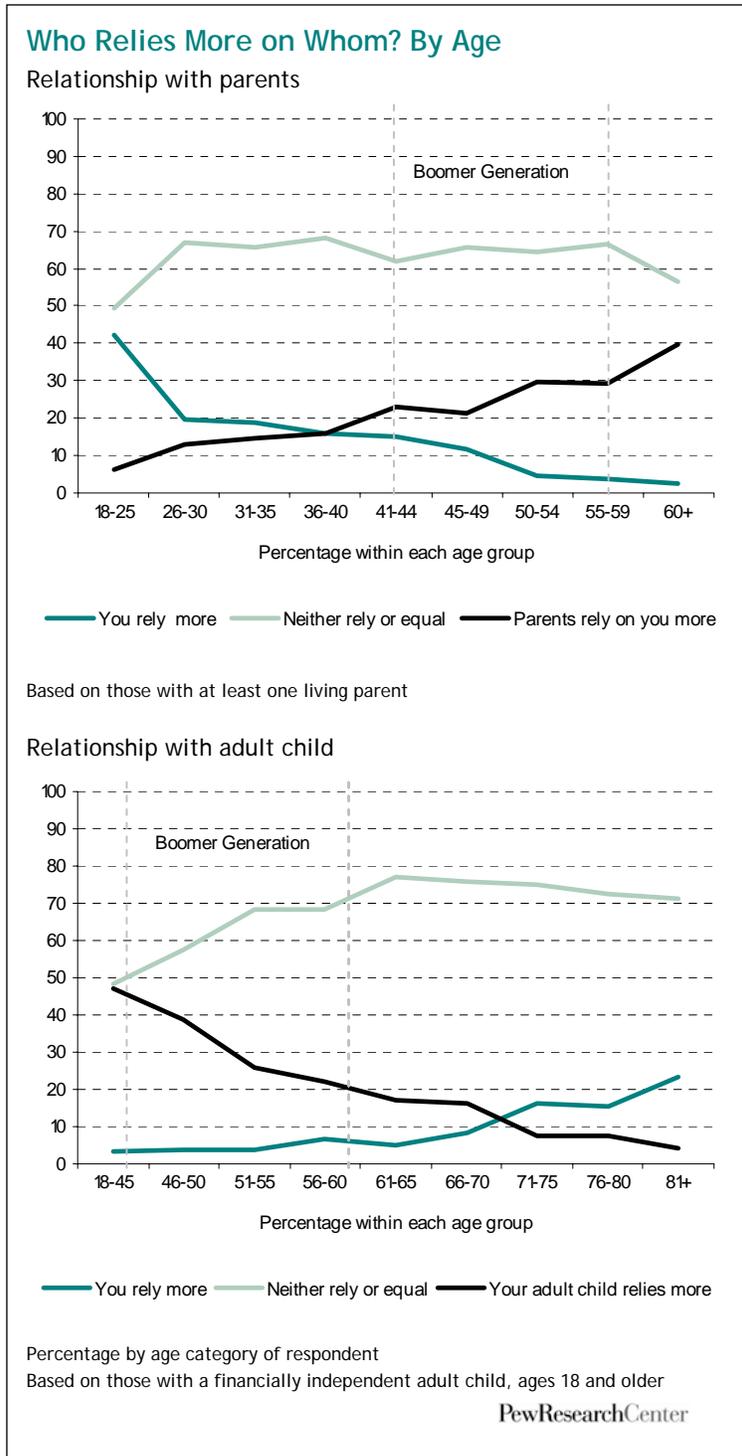
*Source: Gallup May, 1989
Based on those with at least one living parent

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Boomers say they rely less on their parents and adult children for various forms of assistance than their parents and adult children rely on them.

At some point in the life cycle of most parent-child relationships, a role reversal takes place and the child becomes the less dependent partner. This process has begun to take hold with boomers and their parents, but not yet with boomers and their adult children. When asked who relies more on whom – you or your parents—a majority of boomers say neither (53%) and another 11% volunteer both equally. As for the rest, 25% of boomers say their parents rely more on them while just 10% say they rely more on their parents. Asked the same question about their adult children, 30% of boomers say their children rely more on them, while just 4% say they rely more on their children. The rest say neither (53%) or both equally (11%).

The responses to this pair of questions correlate directly with the age of the respondent. People who are under about age 38 are relatively more likely to say that they rely more on their parents than that their parents rely more on them – and the younger the respondent, the greater the propensity to describe the relationship that way. People over about age 38 are more likely to say the opposite – that their parents rely more on them. And this tendency increases with the age of the respondent.



When the mirror image of that question is asked in reference to a financially independent adult child, the chronological crossing point occurs at about the age of 71. People younger than that are more inclined to say their adult children rely more on them, and people older than that are more inclined to say that they rely more on their adult children.

In both instances, boomers are on the “more relied upon” side of these chronological crossing points. Not surprisingly, as the middle-aged generation, they are the only age cohort that reports that both their parents and their adult children rely significantly more on them than vice versa.

Who Relies on Whom—You and Your Parent?				
	Total	Adults 18-40	Boomers 41-59	Adults 60+
	%	%	%	%
Who relies on whom?				
You rely more	19	27	10	3
Parents rely more on you	18	12	25	39
Neither relies on other	48	43	53	52
Rely equally (vol.)	14	17	11	4
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100	100	100
Number of respondents	1875	945	780	126
Based on those with at least one living parent				
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Who Relies on Whom—You and Your Adult Child?			
	Total	Boomers 41-59	Adults 60+
	%	%	%
Who relies on whom?			
You rely more	8	4	12
Your adult child relies more	22	30	13
Neither relies on other	54	53	56
Rely equally (vol.)	14	11	18
Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100	100
Number of respondents	1304	560	691
Based on those with a financially independent adult child, ages 18 and older			
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One third (33%) of boomer parents who have grown children (18 or older) are the primary source of financial support for at least one such child.

Boomers have had fewer children than their parents did, and about one-sixth of all boomer women did not have their first child until after the age of 30, compared with one-twelfth of women in earlier generations⁴.

Nonetheless, the generation of boomer parents is now old enough that they are more likely to have a grown child (those 18 and older) than a minor child. Some 63% of boomers have at least one child ages 18 and older, while some 39% of boomers have at least one minor child.

Obviously, boomer parents who have minor children are the primary source of support for them. But for those boomers with grown children, fully one third are also providing primary financial support for at least one such child. Of the boomer parents who are doing this, fully 62% say it is because the child is in school. However, about a third (34%) of boomer parents in this situation say they are providing primary support to an adult child for other reasons.

Providing for Adult Children

Percent providing the primary financial support for their adult children

	Boomers 41-59	Adults 60+
	%	%
Provides primary financial support for children 18 and older		
For any/all adult children	33	8
For no adult children	66	92
Don't know	1	*
	100	100
Number of respondents	723	762

Based on those with a child ages 18 and older
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Why Parents Give

Among those providing the primary financial support for one or more adult children

	All Adults	Boomers 41-59
	%	%
Reason for primary financial support		
Child in school	56	62
Other reason	39	34
Both (vol.)	3	2
Depends on child (vol.)	*	-
Don't know	2	2
	100	100
Number of respondents	323	235

Based on those providing primary financial support
PewResearchCenter

⁴ Hughes and O'Rand, *Op cit.*

Not surprisingly, the better off financially that boomer parents are, the more likely they are to be the primary source of financial support to an adult child. Among boomer parents who have incomes of less than \$30,000 a year and have at least one adult child, just 23% provide such support; among boomer parents who have incomes of more than \$75,000 a year, 46% are providing such support.

Money Matters					
Income differences among boomers in supporting adult children					
	All Boomers	\$75K and over	\$50K-\$75K	\$30K-\$50K	Under \$30K
	%	%	%	%	%
Primary Financial Support For Any Children 18 and Older					
Yes	33	46	32	29	23
No	66	54	68	70	77
Don't know	1	=	=	1	=
	100	100	100	100	100
Number of respondents	723	232	127	132	135
Based on boomers, ages 41-59, with a child ages 18 and older					
PewResearchCenter					

Regardless of their family income, most boomers regard it as a parent’s responsibility to pay for a child’s college education.

Two thirds (66%) of all boomers say that parents have a responsibility to pay for a child’s college education, and this opinion varies very little with income level – falling slightly to 63% among boomers with annual incomes below \$30,000 and rising slightly to 68% among those

with annual incomes above \$75,000. There is also very little variance in response to this question among boomers and all adults of varying levels of education.

Slightly more boomers than adults who are younger or older view paying for a child’s college education as a parental responsibility. Among adults ages 18-40, just 60% regard paying for a child’s education as a parental responsibility, and among adults ages 60 and over, just 61% agree.

	All Boomers and over	\$75K	\$50K-\$75K	\$30K-\$50K	Under \$30K
	%	%	%	%	%
Parent’s Paying for Child’s College Responsibility	66	68	68	65	63
Not really a responsibility	31	30	30	32	33
Don’t know	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100	100	100	100
Number of respondents	1117	396	192	186	192

PewResearchCenter

But boomers don't see other forms of assistance to grown children - such as saving for their inheritance or taking them into their home - in the same light.

Boomers come down on the other side of the coin on the question of saving for a child's inheritance. Just 27% of boomers describe this as a parental responsibility, an opinion shared by exactly the same percentage of adults ages 60 and older. Younger adults are somewhat more inclined to see this as a parental responsibility – 36% characterize it that way.

All three adult generations are in agreement, by a margin of about two-to-one, that it is not a parent's responsibility to provide housing for an adult child who wishes to reside in the parent's home.

What's A Family Responsibility?

	All Adults	Adults 18-40	Boomers 41-59	Adults 60+
	%	%	%	%
Parents pay for child's college				
Responsibility	62	60	66	61
Not really a responsibility	34	36	31	34
Don't know/Refused	4	4	3	5
	100	100	100	100
Elderly parent living in adult child's home				
Responsibility	56	66	56	38
Not really a responsibility	39	31	40	52
Don't know/Refused	5	3	4	10
	100	100	100	100
Adult child living in parent's home				
Responsibility	32	33	32	31
Not really a responsibility	63	64	63	61
Don't know/Refused	5	3	5	8
	100	100	100	100
Saving for inheritance				
Responsibility	31	36	27	27
Not really a responsibility	66	62	70	69
Don't know/Refused	3	2	3	4
	100	100	100	100
Grandparents helping with childcare				
Responsibility	29	23	29	37
Not really a responsibility	68	75	69	57
Don't know/Refused	3	2	2	6
	100	100	100	100
Number of respondents	3014	987	1117	859

PewResearchCenter

Boomers take a different view about providing housing for elderly parents. A majority (56%) of all boomers characterize this as a responsibility, as do fully two-thirds of younger adults. But those who are older either prefer their autonomy or perhaps don't want to be seen as a burden – just 38% of adults 60 and older characterize this as a responsibility.

Even though most people see it as a responsibility to house an elderly parent, not many people actually do so. Among all adults with at least one living parent, just 14% have a parent living in their household, and among boomers with a living parent just 8% do so. Conversely, while most people do not view it as a responsibility to house an adult child, this practice is a bit more common among boomers— some 18% of boomers with a financially independent adult child have such a child in their home.

Older adults are more inclined than any other generation to characterize “grandparents helping with child care” as a responsibility – 37% feel this way, compared with 30% of boomers and just 23% of younger adults. There are no significant differences in response to this question by gender or race.

Beyond money, there is a general pattern of reciprocity in other exchanges between boomer parents and their adult children.

Boomer parents report that they and their adult children give each other gifts and help each other with errands and housework at roughly the same levels of frequency. About eight-in-ten boomer parents report receiving gifts in the past year from their adult children, and about the same number report giving gifts to their adult children. Four-in-ten boomer parents say they help out their adult children with childcare, and nearly half (47%) say they help out with errands and housework. As parents grow older, however, these forms of assistance become less common. Among parents ages 60 and older, 35% say they help out their adult children with errands and 38% say they help out with child care. Meantime, about half of boomer and older parents report getting help from adult children with errands and housework.

	Boomers 41-59	Adults 60+
	%	%
Percent Received from Adult Child		
Gifts	79	82
Help w/ errands or housework	56	53
Financial help	14	12
Percent Gave to Adult Child		
Gifts	85	86
Help w/ errands or housework	47	35
Help w/ childcare	40	38
Financial help	57	37
Number of respondents	598	747
Based on those with a financially independent adult child, ages 18 and older		
PewResearchCenter		

Some 13% of boomers have a parent or parents who need help handling their affairs or caring for themselves.

A relatively small number of boomers (13%) report that they have a parent or parents who need help handling their affairs or caring for themselves. This figure rises to 20% of all boomers when both parents and parents-in-law are counted.

Boomers are about twice as likely as younger or older adults to have a parent or parents who need help handling their affairs. This is hardly surprising: younger adults (ages 18 to 40) are more likely to have younger and thus healthier parents, and older adults (60 and older) are more likely to have parents who have passed away.

More Boomers Have Parents in Need...

Do your parents need help to handle their affairs or care for themselves or can they handle these things on their own?

	Total	Adults 18-40	Boomers 41-59	Adults 60+
	%	%	%	%
At least one parent living*	68	96	71	14
Parent needs help with care	9	6	13	6
Parent can handle on own	58	88	57	7
Don't know	1	2	1	1
No parents living	<u>32</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>86</u>
	100	100	100	100

...and In-Laws Too

Do either of your spouse's parents need help to handle their affairs or care for themselves or can they handle these things on their own?

	Total	Adults 18-40	Boomers 41-59	Adults 60+
	%	%	%	%
In-law needs help with care	5	3	9	4
In-law can handle on own	36	43	42	14
No in-laws living (vol.)	13	1	13	34
Not married	45	52	34	47
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100	100	100
Number of respondents	3014	987	1117	859

*Approximately 1% of those included with "at least one living parent" have no living mother or father but say a stepparent plays an important role in their life. Approximately 1% of those included with "no parents living" said don't know or refused.

Among those boomers who have a parent or parents who need help to handle their affairs, a fifth (20%) report that the parent or parents reside in an assisted living or other facility, about a fifth (18%) report that the parent or parents reside with them, and the remainder report that the parent or parents live on their own or in some other arrangement.

Regardless of their parents' living situation, about a third of boomers (34%) who have parents who need help handling their affairs say they provide most of the help; while 43% say that another family member does so, and 15% say that most of the help is provided by paid care givers.

Providing Care for Parents Needing Help

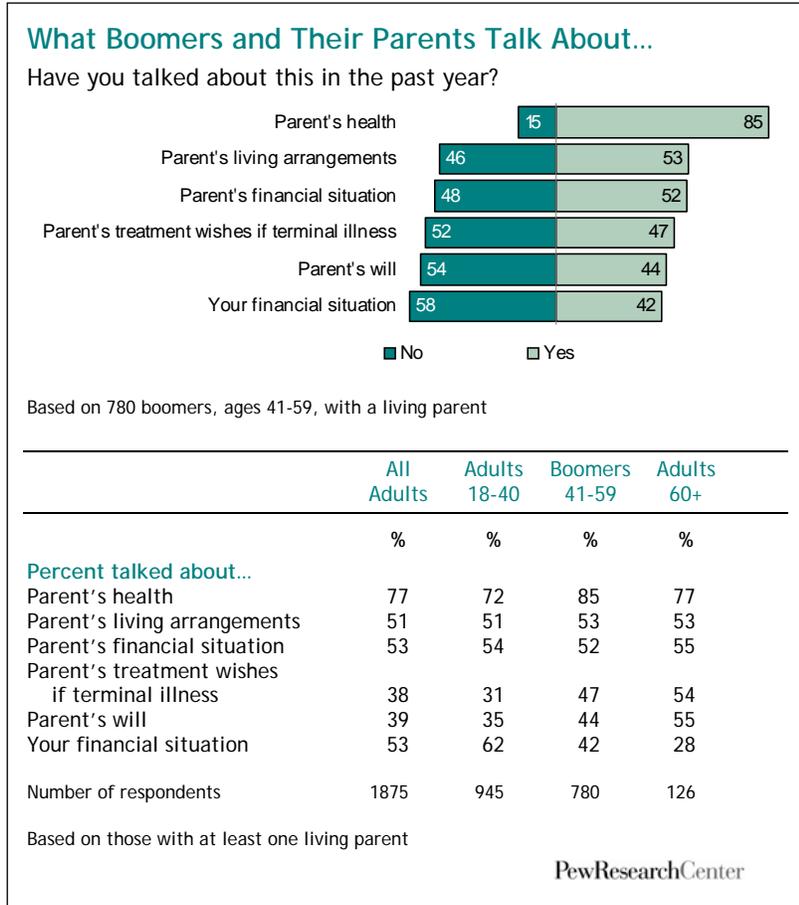
Among those with parents who need help to handle their affairs or care for themselves

	All Adults	Boomers 41-59
	%	%
Living situation for parents needing help		
Assisted living	22	20
In your household	19	18
Other	58	62
Don't know	<u>1</u>	-
	100	100
Who provides most of the help?		
You	32	34
Other family	43	43
Paid help	16	15
Other/combination	6	6
Your spouse (vol.)	1	1
Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100
Number of respondents	269	150

PewResearchCenter

Health is a dominant topic of conversation between boomers and their parents.

When asked about a range of parent-child subjects they may have discussed with their parents in the past year, some 85 percent of boomers say they have talked about their parent’s health; half (53%) say they have talked about their parent’s living arrangements; half (52%) say they have talked about their parent’s financial situation; 47% about their parent’s treatment wishes in the event of a terminal illness; 44% about their parent’s will and 42% about their own financial situation.



Women are more likely than men to report talking about all these subjects with a parent, although the differences between boomer men and women are not statistically significant when it comes to discussion of either their own or their parent’s financial situation.

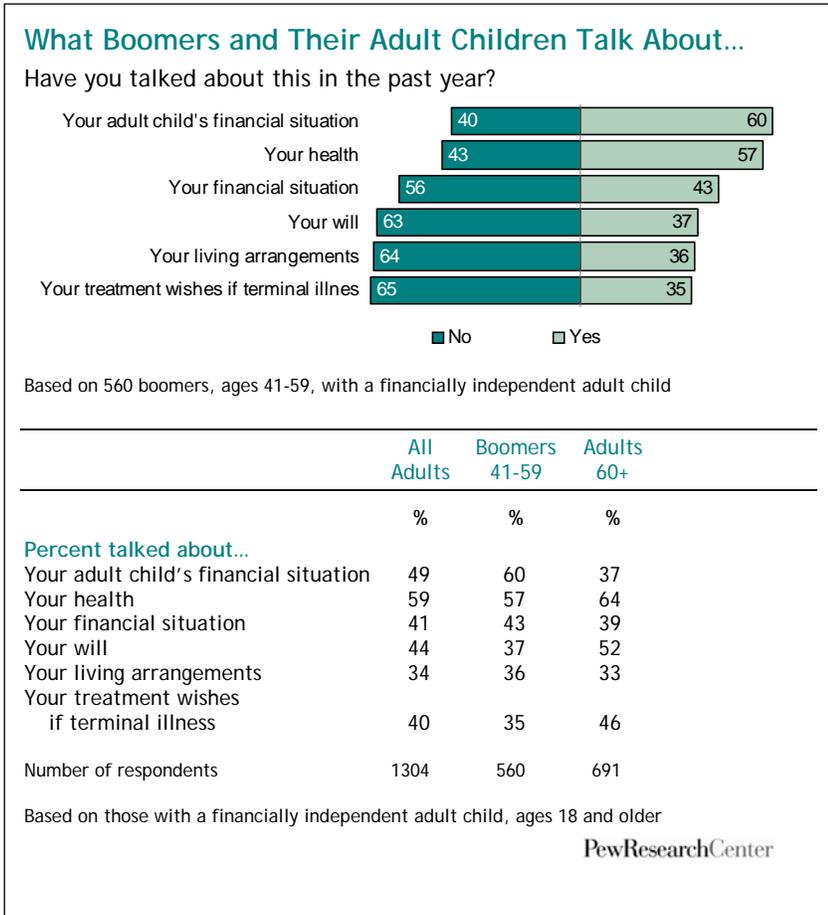
Age is also a factor in how likely people are to discuss these matters. Boomers, with their greater likelihood of having older parents, are more likely than younger adults to have discussed topics facing the elderly such as their parent’s will and the kind of medical treatment they would like if faced with a terminal illness. Older adults (ages 60 and older) with living parents are, similarly, more likely to have discussed their parent’s will and treatment wishes than either boomers or adults ages 40 and under. Younger adults (ages 18 to 40) are more likely to have discussed their own financial situation than are either boomers or adults ages 60 and older, while all age groups are about equally likely to have talked about their parent’s financial situation within the past year.

Money is a leading topic of conversation between boomers and their adult children.

When asked about a range of parent-child topics they may have discussed with their grown children in the past year, some 60% of boomers say they have discussed their adult child's financial situation and 43% say they have talked about their own financial situation. Other topics that boomers and their adult children have discussed in the past year include the boomer's health (57%), their will (37%), their living arrangements (36%) and their treatment wishes if

facing a terminal illness (35%). Here again, boomer women, like women more generally, are more likely than boomer men to have discussed all these topics with their adult children.

And once again, age is a factor in how likely people are to discuss these matters. Boomers are more likely than adults ages 60 and older to have discussed their child's financial situation. Those ages 60 and older are more likely than boomers to have talked with their adult children about their will or their treatment wishes in the case of a terminal illness and their health. Boomers and those ages 60 and older are about equally likely to have discussed their own living arrangements and financial situation in conversations with an adult child in the past year.



As they contemplate their financial situation in retirement, boomers and other generations have similar overall expectations, even though they differ sharply on the details.

Boomers, younger adults and current retirees all share a moderate optimism about their finances in retirement, with more than half of all three groups saying they expect to either live “very comfortably” or to be able to “meet expenses with a little left over.” Another quarter or so of all three groups expects to be able to “just meet basic living expenses.” As noted earlier, boomers are a bit more apprehensive than the other groups about the prospect of not having enough money to make ends meet in retirement – some 17% of boomers who are not retired say they will “not have enough for basics,” compared with 10% of non-retired younger adults and 12% of current retirees who feel this way.

There is a much greater disparity among the three groups, however, in the manner by which they expect to finance their retirement. Among those already retired, a plurality (42%) say

that Social Security is their biggest source of income. But just 21% of non-retired boomers expect Society Security to be their biggest source of income in retirement, and even fewer non-retirees ages 18 to 40 – 13% – have this expectation.

Instead, half of all boomers still facing retirement (49%) say that a 401(k) or IRA savings plan will be their biggest source of income in retirement, and fully two-thirds of non-retired adults ages 18 to 40 also have this expectation. The expectations about the role of employer pension plans also vary with age. Some 21 percent of current retirees say such plans are their biggest income source, while 19% of non-retired boomers and just 11% of non-retirees ages 18-40 expect that such plans will be their biggest source of income in retirement.

Boomers Cautiously Optimistic About Retirement Financing...

Financial situation of current retirees and expectations for boomer and younger non-retirees.

	Retired	Boomers 41-59	Adults 18-40
	%	%	%
Amount of Money in Retirement			
Live very comfortably	33	26	37
Meet expenses with a little left over	26	29	27
Just meet basic living expenses	25	24	21
Not enough for basics	12	17	10
Don't know	4	4	5
	100	100	100

...Despite Modest Expectations About Social Security

Biggest source of retirement income for current retirees and expected source for boomer and younger non-retirees.

	Retired	Boomers 41-59	Adults 18-40
	%	%	%
Biggest Source of Retirement Income			
Social Security	42	21	13
Employer pension plan	21	19	11
401(k)/IRA savings	21	49	66
Other (vol.)	9	4	3
Don't know	7	7	7
	100	100	100

Number of respondents 891 968 968
PewResearchCenter

Looking ahead to their own aging, older boomers are more optimistic than younger boomers.

Older boomers (ages 51-59) are somewhat more optimistic than younger boomers (ages 41-50) when they contemplate their old age. Some 38% of older boomers, compared with just 29% of younger boomers, say their generation will enjoy old age the most.

Throughout their life cycles, older boomers have tended to do better financially than younger boomers, principally because the national economy was more robust when older boomers first entered the labor force⁵. However, the differing perspectives on old age among older and younger boomers do not appear to be based on differing financial expectations. Older and younger boomers in nearly identical percentages say they expect to be able to live comfortably or to meet expenses with a little left over when they retire. So whatever it is that older boomers expect to enjoy more of in old age, money isn't it.

Older Boomers More Optimistic About Their Own Aging		
Which generation will enjoy old age the most?		
	Younger Boomers	Older Boomers
	%	%
Your generation	29	38
Parent's generation	30	19
Children's generation	30	33
Don't know	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>
	100	100
Number of respondents	604	513
	PewResearchCenter	

⁵ Hughes and O'Rand, *Op cit.*

Acknowledgements

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PEW SOCIAL TRENDS
 FINAL TOPLINE
 October 5 - November 6, 2005
 N=3,014

QUESTIONS 1 THROUGH 2 FOR FUTURE RELEASE

Q.3 Please tell me whether you are satisfied or dissatisfied, on the whole, with the following aspects of your life: (First/Next) [INSERT --READ AND RANDOMIZE WITH ITEMS a TO f ALWAYS ASKED FIRST AND ITEMS h TO j ALWAYS LAST] (are you satisfied or dissatisfied?)
REQUIRED PROBE: Would you say you are VERY (dis)satisfied or SOMEWHAT (dis)satisfied?

	-----SATISFIED-----			-----DISSATISFIED-----			Doesn't apply (VOL.)	DK/Ref
	NET	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	NET	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied		
c. Your family life								
All	91	72	19	7	4	3	1	1=100
Boomers ⁶	90	72	18	9	5	4	1	*=100
January, 1999 ⁷	91	71	20	7	4	3	--	2=100
December, 1996	90	69	21	9	6	3	--	1=100

QUESTIONS 3a, 3b & 3d THROUGH 8 FOR FUTURE RELEASE
 NO QUESTION 9 THROUGH 15

ASK ALL:

M1 Are you currently married, living with a partner, divorced, separated, widowed, or have you never been married?

ASK IF LIVING WITH PARTNER/SINGLE (M1=2,7):

M2 Have you ever been married?

ASK IF EVER BEEN MARRIED (M1=1,3,4,5 OR M2=1):

M3 Have you been married more than once, or not?

ASK IF MARRIED MORE THAN ONCE AND NOT CURRENTLY DIVORCED (M3=1 AND M1=1,2,4,5,6)
 OR PAST MARRIED & LWP/SINGLE (M2=1):

M4 Have you ever been divorced?

<u>All</u>	<u>Boomers</u>		<u>All</u>	<u>Boomers</u>	
77	89	(NET) Ever married	77	89	(NET) Ever married
58	61	Married once	24	38	Ever divorced
19	28	Married twice+	53	51	Never divorced
*	*	Don't know/Refused	*	*	Don't know/Refused
22	10	Never married	22	10	Never married
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100		100	100	
(3,014)	(1,117)		(3,014)	(1,117)	

QUESTIONS 16 AND 19 FOR FUTURE RELEASE; NO QUESTION 17 OR 18
 NO QUESTION 20

⁶ Boomers are those ages 41-59 at the time of data collection.

⁷ All trends reference surveys from the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press unless otherwise noted.

- Q.21 Is your mother living?
 Q.22 Is your father living?

<u>All</u>			<u>Boomers</u>		
<i>Mother</i>	<i>Father</i>		<i>Mother</i>	<i>Father</i>	
62	47	Yes	63	37	
38	52	No	37	62	
<u>*</u>	<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>*</u>	<u>1</u>	
100	100		100	100	
(3,014)	(3,014)		(1,117)	(1,117)	

- Q.22a Do you have any living stepparents who played an important role in your life?

<u>All</u>	<u>Boomers</u>	
12	9	Yes
88	91	No
<u>*</u>	<u>*</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	
(3,014)	(1,117)	

IF YES Q22a=1

- Q.22b Would that be a stepmother, a stepfather or both?

BASED ON HAVE STEPPARENT WHO PLAYED IMPORTANT ROLE

<u>All</u>	<u>Boomers</u>	
30	38	Stepmother
50	51	Stepfather
20	11	Both stepmother and stepfather
<u>*</u>	<u>--</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	
(316)	(96)	

ASK IF BOTH PARENTS ARE LIVING (Q.21=1 AND Q.22=1):

- Q.23 Do your mother and father live together?

BASED ON THOSE WITH BOTH PARENTS LIVING

<u>All</u>	<u>Boomers</u>	
67	76	Yes
33	24	No
<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	
(1107)	(337)	

ASK IF BOTH PARENTS ARE LIVING (Q.21=1 AND Q.22=1):

Q.24 With which parent do you have the most contact?

BASED ON THOSE WITH BOTH PARENTS LIVING

<u>All</u>	<u>Boomers</u>	
61	56	Mother
18	18	Father
21	26	Neither/Both same (VOL.)
=	=	Don't know/Refused
100	100	
(1107)	(337)	

ROTATE Q25-Q26 WITH Q27-Q28

ASK IF MOTHER (Q21=1) OR STEPMOTHER (Q21=2,9 & Q22b=1,3) IS LIVING:

Q.25 How old is your (mother/stepmother)?

ASK IF FATHER (Q22=1) OR STEPFATHER (Q22=2,9 & Q22B=2,3) IS LIVING:

Q.27 How old is your (father/stepfather)?

(RECORD EXACT AGE)

BASED ON THOSE WITH MOTHER OR STEPMOTHER LIVING

<u>All</u>	<u>Boomers</u>	
30	1	< 55
24	11	55 – 64
21	43	65 – 74
15	35	75 – 84
6	8	85+
<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	
(1,752)	(710)	

MEAN age of MOTHER = 62.6

BASED ON THOSE WITH FATHER OR STEPFATHER LIVING

<u>All</u>	<u>Boomers</u>	
27	--	< 55
27	5	55 – 64
24	45	65 – 74
14	40	75 – 84
3	8	85+
<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	
(1,320)	(446)	

MEAN age of FATHER = 62.5

QUESTIONS 26 & 28 THROUGH 36 FOR FUTURE RELEASE

----- START OF PARENT SERIES -----

Questions 37 through 55 are asked of respondents with one or more parents living. Respondents with no living parents and no living stepparents who played an important role in their life skip ahead to Question 56. The following instructions indicate the referent in Q37-Q55 given the respondent's situation.

<u>RESPONDENT'S SITUATION</u>	<u>ASK Q37-Q55 ABOUT RESPONDENT'S...</u>
Both parents live together.....	Parents
Parents live separately and more contact with mother.....	Mother
Parents live separately and more contact with father.....	Father
Parents live separately and equal contact.....	FORM 1: Mother / FORM 2: Father
Only mother living.....	Mother
Only father living.....	Father
No parents living and stepmother played important role.....	Stepmother
No parents living and stepfather played important role.....	Stepfather
No parents living and important stepmother and stepfather.....	FORM 1: Stepmother / FORM 2: Stepfather
No parents living and no stepparent played important role.....	SKIP TO Q56

ASK ALL IN PARENT SERIES:

Q.37 How far away from you (do/does) your (parents/mother/father/stepmother/stepfather) live? Is it...
(READ)

BASED ON THOSE WITH PARENT LIVING

<u>All</u>	<u>Boomers</u>		<i>Gallup</i> ⁸ <u>May 1989</u>
14	8	In your household	13
27	27	In your city or town	32
24	25	Less than an hour's drive away	22
12	13	Less than a four hour's drive away	11
23	27	Is it farther away than that?	22
*	*	Don't know/Refused (VOL. DO NOT READ)	*
100	100		100
(1,875)	(780)		

QUESTIONS 38 THROUGH 41 FOR FUTURE RELEASE

⁸ The 1989 Gallup question had a separate explicit response category for "in your neighborhood" that has been combined with "in your city or town."

ROTATE ORDER OF Q.42/Q43 WITH Q.44/Q45⁹

ASK ALL IN PARENT SERIES:

Q.42 (Now I'd like to ask about / And how about) the kinds of things your (parents/mother/father/stepmother/stepfather) may or may not have done for you DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS? (Have they/Has she/ Has he)...? [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]

BASED ON THOSE WITH PARENT LIVING

	Yes	No	Not Appl. (VOL.)	Don't know/ Refused	
a. Given you any financial help					
<i>All</i>	35	64	*	1=100	(1,875)
<i>Boomers</i>	19	80	1	*=100	(780)
Gallup: May, 1989	40	59	*	1=100	
b. Given you any help with childcare					
<i>All</i>	28	52	20	*=100	(1,875)
<i>Boomers</i>	17	72	11	*=100	(780)
Gallup: May, 1989	30	58	12	0=100	
c. Given you any help with errands, housework or home repairs					
<i>All</i>	42	57	1	*=100	(1,875)
<i>Boomers</i>	27	72	1	*=100	(780)
Gallup: May, 1989	42	57	1	*=100	
d. Given you any gifts					
<i>All</i>	74	25	*	1=100	(1,875)
<i>Boomers</i>	68	31	*	1=100	(780)
Gallup: May, 1989	83	17	*	*=100	

ASK IF YES TO FINANCIAL HELP (Q42a=1):

Q.43 Was the financial help given for special circumstances OR was it on a more regular basis?

BASED ON RECEIVED FINANCIAL HELP FROM A PARENT

<u>All</u>	<u>Boomers</u>	
65	75	Special circumstances
30	24	Regular basis
3	1	Both (VOL.)
<u>2</u>	<u>*</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	
(599)	(154)	

⁹ In the 1989 Gallup survey, these question blocks were not rotated. In addition, Q.42 and Q.44 asked about activities done "during the past year" as opposed to DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS, and the items within each of these questions were not rotated.

ASK ALL IN PARENT SERIES:

Q.44 (Now I'd like to ask about / And how about) the kinds of things you may or may not have done for your (parents/mother/father/stepmother/ stepfather) DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS? Did you ...?
[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]

BASED ON THOSE WITH PARENT LIVING

	Yes	No	Don't know/ Refused	
a. Give any financial help				
<i>All</i>	31	68	1=100	(1,875)
<i>Boomers</i>	29	71	*=100	(780)
Gallup: May, 1989	30	70	*=100	
b. Give any help with errands, housework or home repairs				
<i>All</i>	68	31	1=100	(1,875)
<i>Boomers</i>	64	36	*=100	(780)
Gallup: May, 1989	76	24	*=100	
c. Give any gifts				
<i>All</i>	83	16	1=100	(1,875)
<i>Boomers</i>	85	14	1=100	(780)
Gallup: May, 1989	94	6	*=100	

ASK IF YES TO FINANCIAL HELP (Q44a=1):

Q.45 Was the financial help given for special circumstances OR was it on a more regular basis?

BASED ON THOSE WHO GAVE FINANCIAL HELP TO A PARENT

<u>All</u>	<u>Boomers</u>	
48	52	Special circumstances
46	42	Regular basis
4	4	Both (VOL.)
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	
(559)	(217)	

NO QUESTION 46

ASK ALL IN PARENT SERIES:

Q.47 I'd like to ask about some things you may or may not have talked about with your parents. Thinking about the PAST 12 MONTHS, have you talked about [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] with your (parents/mother/father/stepmother/ stepfather), or not?

READ AS NECESSARY: Have you talked about this in the past 12 months with your (parents/mother/ father/stepmother/stepfather)?

BASED ON THOSE WITH PARENT LIVING

	Yes	No	Not Appl. (VOL.)	Don't know/ Refused	
a. (Their/Her/His) health					
<i>All</i>	77	23	*	*=100	(1,875)
<i>Boomers</i>	85	15	--	*=100	(780)
b. (Their/Her/His) current or future living arrangements					
<i>All</i>	51	48	*	1=100	(1,875)
<i>Boomers</i>	53	46	--	1=100	(780)
c. (Their/Her/His) financial situation					
<i>All</i>	53	46	*	1=100	(1,875)
<i>Boomers</i>	52	48	*	*=100	(780)
d. The kind of medical treatment (they/she/he) would like if (they/she/he) had a terminal illness					
<i>All</i>	38	61	*	1=100	(1,875)
<i>Boomers</i>	47	52	*	1=100	(780)
e. (Their wills/Her will/His will) or the things that (they want/she wants /he wants) done after death					
<i>All</i>	39	60	*	1=100	(1,875)
<i>Boomers</i>	44	54	1	1=100	(780)
f. Your financial situation					
<i>All</i>	53	46	*	1=100	(1,875)
<i>Boomers</i>	42	58	--	*=100	(780)

Q.48 Thinking more generally about your relationship with your (parents/ mother/father/stepmother/ stepfather). Would you say... **(READ)**

BASED ON THOSE WITH PARENT LIVING

<u>All</u>	<u>Boomers</u>	
19	10	You rely more on your (parents/ mother/father/stepmother/stepfather) for assistance
18	25	Your (parents rely/mother relies/father relies/stepmother relies/stepfather relies) more on you for assistance
48	53	You and your (parents/mother/father/stepmother/stepfather) generally do not rely on each other for assistance
14	11	Rely on each other equally (VOL. DO NOT READ)
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	
(1,875)	(780)	

NO QUESTION 49 OR 50

Q.51 (Do either of your parents/Does your mother/Does your father/Does your stepmother/Does your stepfather) need help to handle (their/her/his) affairs or care for (themselves/herself/himself), OR can (they/she/he) handle these things on (their/her/his) own?

BASED ON THOSE WITH PARENT LIVING

<u>All</u>	<u>Boomers</u>	
13	19	Need help
85	80	Can handle on own
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	
(1,875)	(780)	

QUESTION 52 FOR FUTURE RELEASE

IF NEEDS HELP (Q51=1):

Q.53 Who provides MOST of this help—is it you, someone else in your family, paid help, or do you have some other arrangement for providing MOST of this help?

BASED ON THOSE WITH PARENT NEEDING HELP

<u>All</u>	<u>Boomers</u>	
32	34	You
43	43	Someone else in your family
16	15	Paid help
6	6	Other (SPECIFY)
1	1	My spouse (VOL.)
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	
(269)	(150)	

QUESTION 54 FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK IF NOT LIVING IN HH (Q37=2,3,4,5,9) & NEEDS HELP (Q51=1):

Q.55 What is your (parents'/mother's/father's/stepmother's/stepfather's) current living situation? Is it an assisted living, continuing care facility or a nursing home, or not?

BASED ON THOSE WITH PARENT NEEDING HELP & LIVING OUTSIDE THE HH

<u>All</u>	<u>Boomers</u>	
28	24	Yes
71	76	No
<u>1</u>	<u>=</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	
(226)	(126)	

----- END OF PARENT SERIES -----

ASK IF MARRIED (M1=1):

Q.56 Do either of your spouse's parents need help to handle their affairs or care for themselves, OR can they handle these things on their own?

BASED ON MARRIED

<u>All</u>	<u>Boomers</u>	
9	13	Need help
65	64	Can handle on own
24	21	None living (VOL.)
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	
(1,715)	(736)	

QUESTIONS 57 THROUGH 58 FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

P1. How many children, if any, do you have under age 18?
NOTE: THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE STEPCHILDREN

P2. How many children, if any, do you have ages 18 and older?
NOTE: THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE STEPCHILDREN

(ENTER NUMBER 0-15)

Number of Children Under Age 18

Number of Children Ages 18 and Older

<u>All</u>	<u>Boomers</u>		<u>All</u>	<u>Boomers</u>	
63	61	None	55	37	None
37	39	(NET) One or more	45	63	(NET) One or more
*	*	Don't know/Refused	*	*	Don't know/Refused
100	100		100	100	
(3,014)	(1,117)		(3,014)	(1,117)	

ASK IF ONE CHILD 18+ (IF P2=1):

P3 Do you provide the PRIMARY financial support for this child, age 18 and older, or not?

ASK IF MORE THAN ONE CHILD 18+ (P2=2-15):

P4 Do you provide the PRIMARY financial support for ALL of your children ages 18 and older, for some but not for others, or not for any?

BASED ON PARENTS OF CHILDREN AGE 18+

<u>All</u>	<u>Boomers</u>	
22	33	(NET) Provide support for a child ages 18 and older
12	18	Provide for ALL children ages 18 and older
10	15	Provide for SOME children ages 18 and older
77	66	Not for any
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Don't know/Ref.
100	100	
(1,568)	(723)	

ASK IF PROVIDING ANY 18+ WITH PRIMARY FINANCIAL SUPPORT (P3=1 OR P4=1,2):

P5 Are you providing the primary financial support because (this child is/these children are) enrolled in school OR for some other reason?

BASED ON PARENTS PROVIDING CHILD 18+ W/ PRIMARY FINANCIAL SUPPORT

<u>All</u>	<u>Boomers</u>	
56	62	In school
39	34	Some other reason
3	2	Both (VOL.)
*	--	Depends on which adult child (VOL.)
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	
(323)	(235)	

QUESTIONS P6 THROUGH P8 FOR FUTURE RELEASE

NO QUESTION 59

----- START OF ADULT CHILD SERIES -----

Questions 60 through 70 are asked of respondents with one or more children ages 18 and older for whom they do not provide primary financial support. Respondents without such an adult child skip ahead to Question 71.

READ

These next questions are about your relationship with your (child who is/children ages) 18 years and older for whom you do not provide primary financial support. I'll refer to (him or her/them) as your (adult child/children).

ROTATE ORDER OF Q60/Q61 WITH Q.62/63

ASK ALL IN ADULT CHILD SERIES:

Q.60 (I'd like to ask about / And how about) the kinds of things you may or may not have done for your adult (child/children) DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS? Did you... **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**

BASED ON PARENTS OF FINANCIALLY INDEPENDENT CHILDREN AGE 18+

	Yes	No	Not Appl. (VOL.)	Don't know/ Refused	
a. Give any financial help					
<i>All</i>	47	53	*	*=100	(1,401)
<i>Boomers</i>	57	42	*	1=100	(598)
b. Give any help with childcare					
<i>All</i>	38	56	6	*=100	(1,401)
<i>Boomers</i>	40	51	8	1=100	(598)
c. Give any help with errands, housework or home repairs					
<i>All</i>	41	58	1	*=100	(1,401)
<i>Boomers</i>	47	51	1	1=100	(598)
d. Give any gifts					
<i>All</i>	85	15	*	*=100	(1,401)
<i>Boomers</i>	85	15	*	*=100	(598)

ASK IF YES TO FINANCIAL HELP (Q.60a=1):

Q.61 Was the financial help given for special circumstances OR was it on a more regular basis?

BASED ON PARENTS WHO GAVE FINANCIAL HELP TO FINANCIALLY INDEPENDENT CHILDREN AGE 18+

<u>All</u>	<u>Boomers</u>	
72	72	Special circumstances
23	23	Regular basis
4	4	Both (VOL.)
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	
(653)	(347)	

ASK ALL IN ADULT CHILD SERIES (P3=2 OR P4=2,3):

Q.62 (I'd like to ask about /And how about) the kinds of things your adult children may or may not have done for you DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS? (Has your adult child/Have any of your adult children) ...
[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]

BASED ON PARENTS OF FINANCIALLY INDEPENDENT CHILDREN AGE 18+

	Yes	No	Don't know / Refused	
a. Given you any financial help				
<i>All</i>	13	87	*=100	(1,401)
<i>Boomers</i>	14	85	1=100	(598)
b. Given you any help with errands, housework or home repairs				
<i>All</i>	54	46	*=100	(1,401)
<i>Boomers</i>	56	44	--=100	(598)
c. Given you any gifts				
<i>All</i>	80	20	*=100	(1,401)
<i>Boomers</i>	79	20	1=100	(598)

ASK IF YES TO FINANCIAL HELP (Q62a=1):

Q.63 Was the financial help given for special circumstances OR was it on a more regular basis?

BASED ON PARENTS WHO RECEIVED FINANCIAL HELP FROM THEIR FINANCIALLY INDEPENDENT CHILDREN AGE 18+

<u>All</u>	
67	Special circumstances
25	Regular basis
2	Both (VOL.)
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	
(173)	

IF RESPONDENT HAS MORE THAN ONE CHILD 18+ AND DOES NOT PROVIDE PRIMARY FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO ANY/SOME (P4=2,3):

READ: My next questions are just about the adult child with whom you have the most contact. Do you have that person in mind or do you need another moment?

[IF RESPONDENT CAN'T DECIDE PROBE ONCE THEN RECORD DK/REFUSED AND SKIP TO Q.71]

ASK ALL IN ADULT CHILD SERIES:

Q.64 (Still thinking about your adult child/[no insert]) How far away from you does this son or daughter live? Is it... **(READ)**

BASED ON PARENTS OF FINANCIALLY INDEPENDENT CHILDREN AGE 18+

<u>All</u>	<u>Boomers</u>	
14	18	In your household
30	28	In your city or town
28	27	Less than an hour's drive away
11	11	Less than a four hour's drive away
17	16	Is it farther away than that
*	*	Don't know/Ref.
100	100	
(1,304)	(560)	

QUESTIONS 65 THROUGH 68 FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL IN ADULT CHILD SERIES:

Q.69 Thinking about the PAST 12 MONTHS, have you talked about [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] with your adult son or daughter, or not?

READ AS NECESSARY: Have you talked about this in the past 12 months with your adult son or daughter?

BASED ON PARENTS OF FINANCIALLY INDEPENDENT CHILDREN AGE 18+

	Yes	No	Not Appl. (VOL.)	Don't know/Refused	
a. Your health					
<i>All</i>	59	41	*	*=100	(1,304)
<i>Boomers</i>	57	43	--	*=100	(560)
b. Your current or future living arrangements					
<i>All</i>	34	66	*	*=100	(1,304)
<i>Boomers</i>	36	64	--	*=100	(560)
c. Your financial situation					
<i>All</i>	41	59	*	*=100	(1,304)
<i>Boomers</i>	43	56	*	1=100	(560)
d. The kind of medical treatment you would like if you had a terminal illness					
<i>All</i>	40	59	*	1=100	(1,304)
<i>Boomers</i>	35	65	*	*=100	(560)
e. Your will, or the things that you want done after your death					
<i>All</i>	44	56	*	*=100	(1,304)
<i>Boomers</i>	37	63	*	*=100	(560)
f. His or her financial situation					
<i>All</i>	49	51	*	*=100	(1,304)
<i>Boomers</i>	60	40	--	--=100	(560)

Q.70 Thinking more generally about your relationship with this adult son or daughter. Would you say... **(READ)**

BASED ON PARENTS OF FINANCIALLY INDEPENDENT CHILDREN AGE 18+

<u>All</u>	<u>Boomers</u>	
8	4	You rely more on your adult child for assistance
22	30	Your adult child relies more on you for assistance
54	53	You and your adult child generally do not rely on each other for assistance
14	11	Rely on each other equally (VOL.)
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	Don't know/Ref.
100	100	
(1,304)	(560)	

----- END OF ADULT CHILD SERIES -----

ASK ALL:

Q.71 Taking everything into consideration, which generation in your family do you think will enjoy their old age THE MOST— you, your parents, or your children?

NOTE: IF SAYS "I HAVE NO CHILDREN", SAY "WELL, WE ARE REFERRING TO THE GENERATION YOUR CHILDREN *WOULD* BE IN, IF YOU HAD THEM."

<u>All</u>	<u>Boomers</u>	
33	33	You/respondent's generation
24	26	Parent's generation
31	31	Children's generation
<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	
(3,014)	(1,117)	

QUESTION 72 FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

Q.73 Here are a few things family members sometimes do for each other. I'd like to know if you think each is a responsibility or is it not really a responsibility, regardless of whether it might be a good thing to do. (First/Next)... **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**

READ AS NECESSARY: Do you think this is a responsibility or is it not really a responsibility?

	Responsibility	Not Really a Responsibility	Don't know/Refused	
a. Parents paying for a child's college education				
<i>All</i>	62	34	4=100	(3,014)
<i>Boomers</i>	66	31	3=100	(1,117)
b. Parents allowing an adult child to live in their home if the child wants to				
<i>All</i>	32	63	5=100	(3,014)
<i>Boomers</i>	32	63	5=100	(1,117)
c. Adult children allowing an elderly parent to live in their home if the parent wants to				
<i>All</i>	56	39	5=100	(3,014)
<i>Boomers</i>	56	40	4=100	(1,117)
d. Parents saving money to hand down to their children after they die				
<i>All</i>	31	66	3=100	(3,014)
<i>Boomers</i>	27	70	3=100	(1,117)
e. Grandparents helping with child care for their grandchildren				
<i>All</i>	29	68	3=100	(3,014)
<i>Boomers</i>	29	69	2=100	(1,117)

QUESTIONS 74 THROUGH 80 FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK IF NOT RETIRED (E1=3,9)

Q.81 Looking ahead to your retirement, what do you expect to be your biggest source of income – Social Security, an employer-sponsored pension plan, or your own retirement savings including IRA's and 401K plans?

ASK IF RETIRED (E1=1,2)

Q.82 What is your biggest source of income – Social Security, an employer-sponsored pension plan, or your own retirement savings including IRA's and 401K plans?

<u>Retired</u>	<u>Not Retired</u>		
<i>All</i>	<i>All</i>	<i>Boomers</i>	
42	17	21	Social Security
		19	Employer-sponsored pension plan (INCLUDE GOVERNMENT, MILITARY, SPOUSE'S PENSION)
21	14		
21	58	49	Retirement savings including IRA's and 401K plans
9	4	4	Other (VOL.)
<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	100	
(891)	(2,123)	(968)	

ASK IF NOT RETIRED (E1=3,9):

Q.83 When you retire do you expect you'll have enough money... **(READ)**

ASK IF RETIRED (E1=1,2):

Q.84 Do you currently have enough money... **(READ)**

<u>Retired</u>	<u>Not Retired</u>		
<i>All</i>	<i>All</i>	<i>Boomers</i>	
33	32	26	To live very comfortably
26	28	29	To meet your expenses with a little left over for extras
25	22	24	To just meet your basic living expenses
12	13	17	Not enough to meet expenses
<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	100	
(891)	(2,123)	(968)	

QUESTION 85 FOR FUTURE RELEASE