

THE GENERATIONAL STRUCTURE OF MULTIRACIAL ANCESTRY IN THE UNITED STATES

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ABSTRACT

We draw on the 2015 Pew Survey of Multiracial Americans to explore the age and generational structures of the adult mixed-race population in greater detail than has yet been available. Most previous research is limited to identifying multiracial ancestry through self-identification and/or parents' race. With Pew data, we can include respondents who say they have an ancestor of a different race going back to their great-grandparents and beyond. This allows us to examine whether generational proximity to racially mixed ancestors is related to other outcomes, such as the likelihood that one self-identifies as multiracial, has racially diverse social networks, or reports experiences of racial discrimination. Preliminary findings highlight large differences in age and generational structures across various racial population combinations, as well as a relationship between the generational locus of an individual's multiracial ancestry and their own racial identity.