

Children's Patterns of Residence in Doubled-up Households

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Abstract

About one-fifth of children in the U.S. live in shared, or “doubled-up” households, which include additional adults beyond their parent(s) and parent’s romantic partner. Previous research suggests that these households tend to be unstable, but we know little about children’s patterns of residence in doubled-up households or how these patterns may vary across different types of doubled-up households. Using data from the Survey of Income and Program Participation, which interviews households in four-month intervals, we examine the stability and transition patterns of children who double up. Our analyses highlight important differences in children’s experiences of doubling up, based on their household composition and whether their parent(s) is the lease/mortgage holder of the home. This project contributes to the study of children’s living arrangements and improves our understanding of the dynamics of this common private housing safety net.