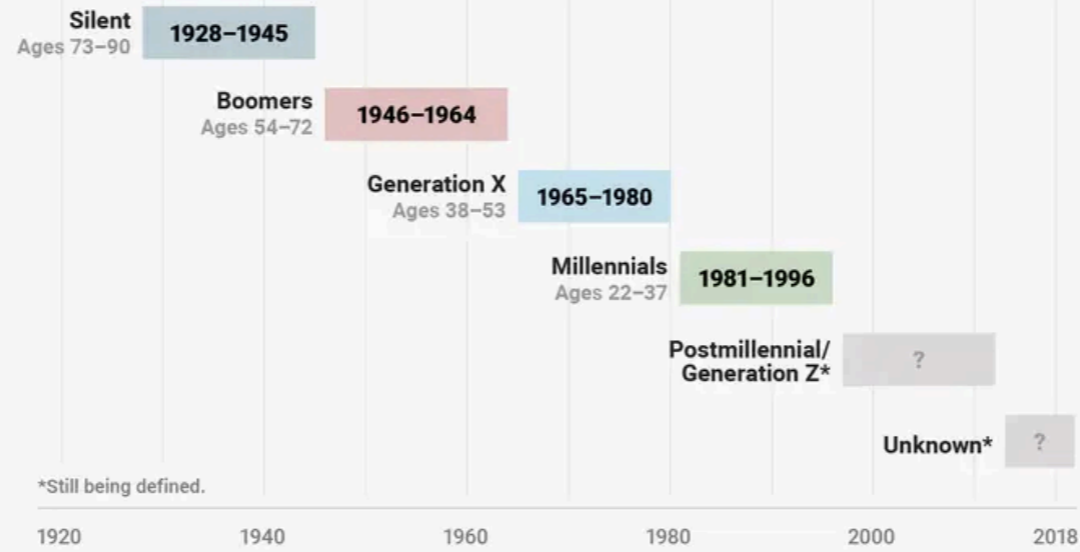


The Gen Z X Factor

How Gen Z can position themselves for success in the college application process and beyond

Mr. Creedon- 10/2020

Which generation you're in based on your birth year



Source: Pew Research Center

BUSINESS INSIDER

Take this 13-item quiz to find out how “IGen” you are. Answer each question with “yes” or “no”.

1. In the past 24 hours, did you spend at least an hour total texting on a cell phone?
2. Do you have a Snapchat account?
3. Do you consider yourself a religious person?
4. Did you get your driver’s permit by the time you turned 16 or received your driver’s license by the time you turned 17?
5. Do you think same-sex marriage should be legal?
6. Did you fight with your parents a lot when you were a teen?
7. Were more than one-third of the other students at your high school a different race than you?
8. Do you spend nearly every weekend night out with your friends?
9. Did you have a job during the school year when you were in high school?
10. Do you agree that safe spaces and trigger warnings are good ideas and that efforts should be made to reduce microaggressions?
11. Are you a political independent?
12. Do you support the legalization of marijuana?
13. Do you feel left out and lonely fairly often?

SCORING

Give yourself 1 point for answering “yes” to questions 1, 2, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12 and 13. Give yourself 1 point for answering “no” to questions 3, 4, 6, 8 and 9. The higher your score, the more iGen you are in your behaviors, attitudes and beliefs.

Using the birth years 1995 to 2012, iGen includes 74 million Americans, about 24% of the population.

Markers That Make You An Adult (in no particular order)

- Moving from parents home
- Leaving school for the final time
- Getting a full-time job
- Reaching economic self-sufficiency
- Getting Married
- Having Children
- Establishing an independent household

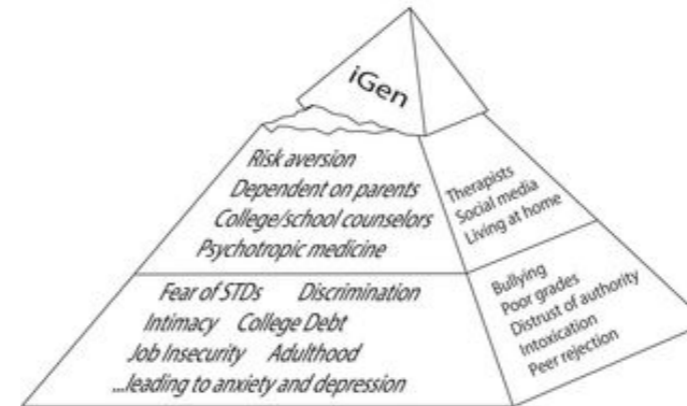
From *Vanishing American Adult: Our Coming of Age Crisis and How to Rebuild a Culture of Self-Reliance* by Ben Sasse



Ten Important Trends Shaping iGen'ers (and ultimately all of us)

From *iGen: Why Today's Super-Connected Kids are Growing Up Less Rebellious, More Tolerant, Less Happy-and Completely Unprepared for Adulthood* by Jeane Twenge

- In no hurry (the extension of childhood into adolescence)
- Internet (how much time they are really spending on their phones-and what that has replaced)
- In person no more (the decline in in-person social interaction)
- Insecure (the sharp rise in mental health issues)
- Irreligious (the decline in religion)
- Insulated but not intruistic (the interest in safety and the decline in civic involvement)
- Income insecurity (new attitudes toward work)
- Indefinite (new attitudes towards relationships and children)
- Inclusive (acceptance, equality and free speech debates)
- Independent (their political views)



iGen teens are less likely to go out without their parents. The numbers are stunning: 12th graders in 2015 are going out less often than 8th graders did as recently as 2009. So 18-year-olds are now going out less often than 14-year-olds did just six years prior.

iGen teens are less likely to date (see Figure 1.2). Only about half as many iGen high school seniors vs. Boomers and GenX'ers at the same age) ever go out on dates. In the early 1990s, nearly three out of four 10th graders sometimes dated, but by the 2010s only about half did.

Teens have always been nervous about passing their driving tests, of course, but the lure of adult freedom was usually strong enough to overcome it. Matthew typifies an iGen trend: though nearly all Boomer high school students had their driver's license by spring of their senior year, by 2015 only 72% did. That means more than one out of four iGen'ers do not have a driver's license by the time they graduate from high school (see Figure 1.5). Teens have always been nervous about passing their driving tests, of course, but the lure of adult freedom was usually strong enough to overcome it. Matthew typifies an iGen trend: though nearly all Boomer high school students had their driver's license by spring of their senior year, by 2015 only 72% did. That means more than one out of four iGen'ers do not have a driver's license by the time they graduate from high school (see Figure 1.5).

The decline in the percentage of teens working is considerable: in the late 1970s, only 22% of high school seniors didn't work for pay at all during the school year, but by the early 2010s, twice as many (44%) didn't (see Figure 1.7). The number of 8th graders who work for pay has been cut in half. These declines accelerated during the years of the Great Recession (2007–2009), but working did not bounce back in the postrecession years, when unemployment reached very low levels and jobs were easier to find. Among the youngest teens, the number working continued to decline even as the economy boomed. Teens also work fewer hours a week on average—for example, 12th graders headed to college in 2016 (vs. in 1987) worked about five fewer hours a week—about forty minutes a day less (see Appendix B).

The trends in this total are clear: iGen teens are spending less time on homework, paid work, volunteering, and extracurriculars combined, not more (see Figure 1.8). For example, high school seniors heading to college in 2015 spent four fewer hours a week on homework, paid work, volunteer work, and extracurricular activities during their last year in high school than those entering college in 1987. That means iGen teens—even those heading for college—had thirty-three minutes more leisure time per day than GenX'ers did. Thus, time spent on homework and activities doesn't seem to be the reason teens are now less likely to work during the school year.

However, even if teens don't learn high-level skills from their jobs, they often learn the value of responsibility and money.

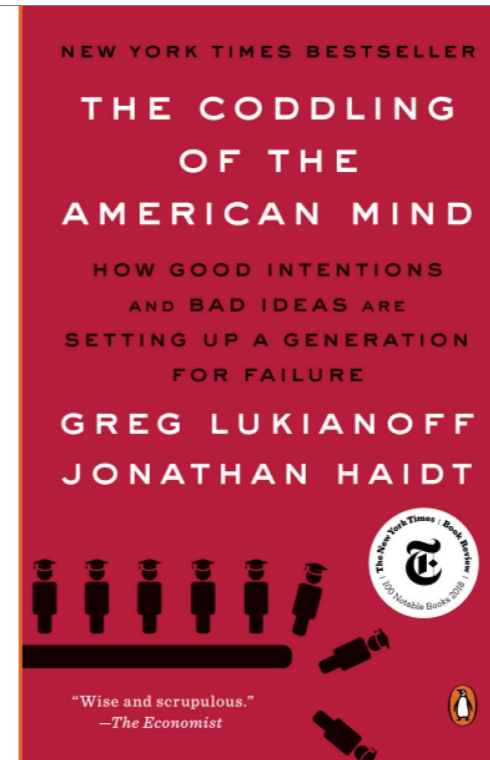
“If I had worked in high school, regardless of where, I would have known how to behave on the job. In fact, if I had had a job I probably would have learned a discipline and work ethic that would have helped me in many areas of my life. I would have learned the importance of attendance, which is something I have a huge struggle with when it comes to school and appointments. I never learned what it was like to earn something.”

Whether it's good or bad, working is yet another adult activity teens are putting off until later.

When they need money, they must, like Ellie, ask for it from their parents. It's yet another example of 18-year-olds now being like 15-year-olds: just like children and young adolescents, one out of five iGen high school seniors asks their parents for what they want instead of managing their own cash flow.

Safetyism

- A culture that allows the concept of “safety” to creep so far that it equates emotional discomfort with physical danger is a culture that encourages people to systematically protect one another from the very experiences embedded in daily life that they need in order to become strong and healthy.
- “Safety” trumps everything else, no matter how unlikely or trivial the potential danger.
- Like the immune system, children must be exposed to challenges and stressors (within limits, and in age-appropriate ways), or they will fail to mature into strong and capable adults, able to engage productively with people and ideas that challenge their beliefs and moral convictions.
- Safetyism deprives young people of the experiences that their antifragile minds need, thereby making them more fragile, anxious, and prone to seeing themselves as victims.
- First grade checklists from 1979 and today (pg. 186)



What Do Colleges Look For in an Applicant? IN YOUR CONTROL

- GRADES
- CLASSES TAKEN
- TEST SCORES
- ESSAYS
- LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION
- EXTRACURRICULARS
- TALENT (Work ethic/Dedication)



What Do Colleges Look For in an Applicant? OUT OF YOUR CONTROL

- WHERE YOU LIVE
- FAMILY INCOME
- RACE/ETHNICITY
- LEGACY
- WHERE YOU GO TO SCHOOL
- ADVERSITY YOU'VE FACED
- TALENT/PHYSICAL MAKEUP (What you are born with)
- SCHEDULE CONFLICTS



How Do We Respond As Christians?

- Shouldn't be concerned/anxious about:
 - Money
 - Status
 - "Success"
- Are you serving the less fortunate?
- Are you utilizing the spiritual gifts God blessed you with?
- Do you perform well to honor the Lord and not to please others?
- You are not as good as you think you are (humility)?
- Who ultimately is your God?



Three Biggest Reasons We Struggle as Christians

- **Status**
- **Anxiety about the future**
- **Control (Philippians 4)**



Status Video of Dr. Miller- Show from 7:27-11:36

Anxiety about future Video of Matt Chandler- Show from 12:40-15:45

EXAMPLES

- Pg. 217
- pg. 242
- pg. 246
- pg. 248

"One of the most nuanced, coolheaded examinations of the admissions process that I've read." —FRANK BRUNI, *THE NEW YORK TIMES*

WHO GETS IN AND WHY

A YEAR INSIDE
COLLEGE
ADMISSIONS

JEFFREY
SELINGO

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF
THERE IS LIFE AFTER COLLEGE and *COLLEGE (UN)BOUND*