

Center for Demography and Ecology

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Cohabitation, Marriage and Union Stability:

Preliminary Findings from NSFH2

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May 1995

This is a revision of the paper presented at the 1995 Annual Meetings of the Population Association of America, April 4-6, San Francisco. The National Survey of Families and Households was funded by Grant HD21009 from the Center for Population Research of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, and AG10266 of the National Institute of Aging. This research was supported by HD22433, using facilities provided under Grant HD05876.

Abstract

This PAA paper is a first report on our analyses of cohabitation, marriage and union stability. These trends are seen as linked in the context of the declining significance of marriage, and we present dramatic age differences in attitudes that presage an increasing acceptance of premarital sex, cohabitation, and unmarried childbearing as younger cohorts replace older ones in the age structure. Further, trends in cohabitation continued over the interval since the first interview. The proportion who have ever cohabited, and the proportion of the unmarried persons currently cohabiting increased in each 5 year age group.

Preliminary analyses of transitions between NSFH1 and NSFH2 are then explored for 1) cohabitation and marriage as first unions (and for any marriage whether or not it was preceded by cohabitation), for women who were neither cohabiting or married at the first interview, and 2) The disruption of marital or cohabiting unions of less than 10 years duration. For the analysis of union formation, variables are considered in blocks including 1) Demographic and background, 2) Dating and sexual frequency, 3) Religion and family attitudes, and 4) Attitudes toward marriage, cohabitation and unmarried childbearing. For the analysis of union stability the blocks were 1) Demographic and background, 2) Religion and family attitudes, and 3) Couple relationship measures. While many of the general orientation measures collected at the first interview bore little relationship to these processes, the more specific measures, such disapproval of cohabitation or perceived union stability, had strong relationships with subsequent behavior.

Introduction:

This paper is a first report from NSFH2 as part of our ongoing project to better understand cohabitation, marriage, nonmarital childbearing and family stability.¹ To set our analyses in context, we begin with a brief review of our position (Bumpass, 1994) that trends in these areas can be best understood as manifestations of the “declining significance of marriage.” Basically this argument holds that cohabitation and nonmarital childbearing are tightly woven threads in the broader fabric of family change. Since the underlying trends have deep historical roots and are widely shared with other Western industrial societies, it is most unlikely that they have been caused by any social policy or events specific to the United States; nor is it likely that social policy can reverse the underlying trends.

This perspective recognizes clearly that family matters remain extremely important in the lives of Americans, even as they progressively compete less well with other adult opportunities. Marriage decreasingly signifies the transitions that it once did. As divorce replaced parental death as the major cause of single-parent families, by the late 1960s, single-parent families **by choice** had become common and increasingly accepted. This helped set the stage for what we have seen in nonmarital childbearing in that single-motherhood was no longer stigmatizing in itself, and marriage had become a poor guarantee of a stable two-parent family (Thornton, 1989; Bumpass and Sweet, 1989a).

With delays in marriage, unmarried sex became increasingly common, both as a consequence of the increased proportion of the population unmarried in their twenties, and of progressively earlier initiation of sexual intercourse. From the NSFH2 older child interviews,

¹ Because we are still in the process of correcting cases with missing (but retrievable) data on birth dates, this version does not include the estimates of nonmarital childbearing distributed in the handout at the meetings.

life-table estimates suggest that about 85 percent of unmarried teens are now sexually active by age 20 (see also, Allen Guttmacher Institute, 1994; Sonnestein et al., 1989). Unmarried sex is now simply a part of our culture, and marriage no longer signifies the expected beginning of sex.

The dramatic decline in stigma associated with unmarried sex very likely contributed to trends in both unmarried childbearing and cohabitation. Traditionally, each of these behaviors has been strongly censured, in part because of the evidence each provided of illicit sexual behavior. As unmarried sex has become accepted as normal, the shock and stigma associated with unmarried pregnancy or cohabitation have also decreased greatly.

Estimates from NSFG suggest that the time spent unmarried and sexually active more than doubled over the last two decades. This in itself would lead to a substantial increase in unmarried childbearing even if all else remained equal. Nonmarital fertility has more than doubled over this period among majority whites (NCHS, 1994). Hence, the underlying dynamic is a part of our broader cultural change and not linked specifically to minorities.

As suggested by the increase in exposure time, the majority of unmarried births continue to be the result of unintended conceptions (Brown and Eisenberg, 1995). (This, despite the fact that half of all pregnancies to unmarried women are ended by abortion.) While a substantial minority of unmarried women do explicitly decide to become pregnant, the relevant decisions for the majority of these mothers concern choices about abortion and marriage in the face of unintended pregnancy. In any event, marriage no longer signifies the beginning of childbearing for a substantial proportion of the population.

Nor does it any longer signify the point at which couples establish a joint household. NSFH1 helped to document the dramatic increase in cohabitation since 1970 (Thornton, 1988; Bumpass and Sweet, 1989b; Bumpass, Sweet, and Cherlin, 1991). The present paper finds that this trend has continued. After a brief consideration of changes in relevant attitude items, we

examine trends in the proportion who have ever cohabited, and in current cohabitation, for persons age 25 and over. We then examine transitions between interviews with respect to cohabitation and marriage (with and without prior cohabitation). The final section examines the stability of unions (married or cohabiting) of less than 10 years duration at first interview.

Data and Methods:

The 1987-88 National Survey of Families and Households (NSFH1), was a national survey of 13,017 persons age 19 and over (Sweet, Bumpass, and Call, 1988), including oversamples of minorities, single-parent families, stepfamilies, recently married couples, and cohabiting couples. In 1992-1994 we reinterviewed 10,008 of the original respondents in face-to-face computer assisted interviews (CAPI). In addition, we interviewed 6416 current or former (NSFH1) spouses (or partners), and conducted telephone interviews with 1416 children aged 10-17, 1090 sons and daughters aged 18-24, and 3348 parents. The response rate for the main sample was 82 percent for eligible main respondents and about 80 percent for spouses. Although cleaning and variable construction continue, the first release of the data is now available by FTP.²

The lower age limit of 19 in NSFH1 constrains the ages that can be represented with NSFH2 data. With an average interval between interviews of 5.8 years, the youngest age fully represented at NSFH2 is 25; hence it is clear that comparisons between cross-sections at the two interviews should be limited to persons age 25 and over at each. It is also necessary to impose a similar constraint in estimating population parameters for events during the period between interviews. Although experience under age 25 during this period is represented by the youngest NSFH1 age groups, the extent of representation differs by age and year. With each year since NSFH1, the population experience for the younger ages that is represented in the data becomes

² Contact nsfhhhelp@ssc.wisc.edu for information.

increasingly limited by the aging of the youngest original respondents.

Samples:

We have limited the analyses of event histories in this paper to the data for females. Explorations of the partial data file revealed a number of interactions with gender, not all of which seemed sensible. A careful evaluation of the data from males (in comparison to that from females) is on our future agenda.

We use a number of differently defined NSFH1 subsamples because of the varying samples for which particular variables were assessed. For example, attitude items regarding cohabitation and marriage were asked only of the unmarried persons under age 35, and couple data are available only for main respondents whose spouse or partner completed the self-administered questionnaire. Consequently, different samples are potentially available for various subsets of the variables analyzed. To minimize confusion, the present paper considers cohabitation and marriage after NSFH1 for the sample of 1612 persons who were neither cohabiting nor married at NSFH1, and who completed the NSFH1 self-administered questionnaire on attitudes toward marriage and cohabitation (and were thus under age 35). We find similar results for variables that are comparable across samples, both when we include data for older respondents, and when we include cohabiting persons with the unmarried. Union stability is examined for the sample with a completed NSFH1 spouse/partner questionnaire, and (because we include cohabiting couples) is further restricted to unions under 10 years duration at NSFH1 (N=1596). The vast majority of cohabitations are shorter than this duration, and this includes the durations of marriage when rates of dissolution are highest.

Variables:

Variables are considered in sets including 1) family background measures, union and fertility

history, and current socio-economic characteristics, 2) marriage market behaviors, 3) religion and general attitudes toward family issues, and 4) specific attitudes toward marriage, cohabitation, and nonmarital childbearing. Many variables that might be expected are not here, parental education for example, because there were no consistent differences of interest.

Means are presented on many of these variables for cohabitation, marriage as a first union, any marriage since T1, and for separation to unions of under 10 years. This is very much a “preliminary report” on ongoing work, as indicated in the title, and logit analyses are included only for cohabitation, any marriage, and for separation.

In the future we will also examine nonmarital births since NSFH1, including a distinction between those resulting from planned and unplanned pregnancies (using the NSFG measures of birth planning which were incorporated into the second round of our study).

The NSFH1 self-administered questionnaire included a number of scales relating to cohabitation, marriage, and marital and cohabitational relationships. Cohabiting couples got the same questions as other unmarried persons with respect to marriage and cohabitation, while married and cohabiting couples answered identical questions with respect to the spouse/partner relationship. These scales are described in the Appendix. In general, the alpha coefficients are quite high. We also included a measure based on the CESD depression scale.

As indicated by our limitation of couples to those with spouse/partner interviews indicated, it is on our agenda to examine the added value of couple measures. Unfortunately, there was not time to include that material here. Results so far are simultaneously reassuring and disappointing. The relationship between most scales and subsequent separation is very similar no matter whether the respondent or partner measure is used. On the other hand, only in some instances does the predictive ability appear to be improved by combining the two.

We also plan to examine the NSFH1 cohabiting sample separately in considering both

marriage and separation processes, but the relatively small sample size will require a different mode of analysis than is undertaken here.

Models:

Our intention is to use hazard modeling in predicting events because of the substantial variation in the time between NSFH1 and NSFH2 interviews, but we began with logit models as a starting point. Although we consider a number of models, adding in successive blocks of variables, all of this is clearly preliminary with a great deal of future attention needed to disaggregate the mediating roles of particular variables within these blocks.

Preliminary Findings

Attitudes

In the context of the introductory discussion of family change, we begin with Figure 1 which reports age differences (based on age at NSFH1) in three measures of family related attitudes as measured in 1987-88 and 1992-94. These are classified to represent the proportion taking a “traditional” position: those **disagreeing** that sex is all right for unmarried 18 year olds, and that cohabitation is alright even if a couple doesn't plan marriage, and that it is alright for an unmarried woman to have a child. We start here because we think these simple graphs have profound implications for future change. There is no singular “public opinion” on these matters — rather there are dramatic differences by age on each measure. While 70-80 percent of the population over age 70 disagree with these items, the proportion disagreeing declines consistently with age to only about a quarter of persons 25-29. These age differences carry clear implications for the future nature of “average” public attitudes through the process of cohort succession as the younger cohorts will move through the age structure. Of course, age differences in cross-section might represent aging rather than cohort effects. On the contrary, for the two of these measures that were asked at both surveys, most age groups became **less** traditional as they aged.

Trends in Cohabitation

The trends continued in behavior as well. Table 1 and Figures 2 and 3 address changes in

the proportion of the population that has ever cohabited. Age is classified here as age in the year of survey, so each age group at NSFH1 is roughly represented by the next age group at NSFH2. The data are organized this way to help demonstrate just the point made above with respect to attitudes: cumulative experience by age has changed rather considerably over these 5-6 years as a result of both cohort succession and within-cohort change. By now about half of the population under age 40 have lived with an unmarried partner — in ten years that will be true for the population under age 50.

Our main sample design limits the consideration of these trends to the population ages 25 and over. However, we have tentatively included data from our interviews with children (ages 18-23) of respondents to help fill that gap. The data look quite reasonable, indicating increasing cohabitation at the younger ages as well, but we feel this kind of use will need to be undertaken with great care.

Figure 3 shows that educational differences in the proportion who have ever cohabited widened somewhat since the late 1980s, while differences by race narrowed.

Table 2 (and Figures 4 and 5) present similar results for current cohabitation. For example, the proportion of unmarried persons who were cohabiting increased from 17 to 24 percent among persons aged 25-39. The dramatic change at ages 50-54 (from 4 to 17 percent) might seem unlikely until we recognize that this is approximately the cohort we saw at 13 percent in NSFH1 — again illustrating the consequences of cohort succession.

The widening of educational differentials is also seen for current cohabitation. Among unmarried persons 25-39 in 1992-94, those not completing high school are almost twice as likely to be cohabiting as those who completed college: one-third compared to one-sixth. Nonetheless, it is clear that cohabitation is not simply a phenomenon of the less privileged since, at these ages, one-sixth of unmarried college graduates are presently cohabiting and forty percent of all college

graduates have done so at some time.

Transitions in Cohabitation, Marriage, and Nonmarital Childbearing

A. Background and Socio-Economic Variables

A great deal of information is included in Tables 3 through 6 and we will make no attempt to systematically discuss each variable. Rather, we will take up variables by general classification and point to major findings (and nonfindings) in a selective manner. It should be kept in mind that these results are for the sample of persons under age 35 and neither married nor cohabiting at NSFH1.

Table 3 presents the means on three outcomes by the predictor variables, and Tables 4 and 5 report estimated logit coefficients for two of these outcomes: cohabitation and any marriage (with or without preceding cohabitation). Each table is organized into sections corresponding to the blocks of variables considered in the models.

The first column in Tables 4 and 5 reports coefficients for each variable net of compositional differences with respect to age and the length between interviews. Model 2 considers the array of background, social and economic variables (those in section A of Tables 3-5) as a set to see the extent to which observed differences in transitions persist independent of the relationships among these variables. The third model then adds in the “market behavior” variables (section B of these tables) to examine the extent to which differences in transitions can be understood in terms of dating and sexual variables at NSFH1. Model 4 then adds religious identification, church attendance, and a summary measure of traditional family attitudes (section C of Tables 3-5) to see how differences in these variables might account for behavior differences, and then the last model adds in the value orientations specific to cohabitation, marriage and nonmarital childbearing (section D).

The top row of Table 3 provides a sense of the transitions observed since NSFH1 for this sample of women who were under age 35 and neither married nor cohabiting at first interview.

Since then, 37 percent began cohabiting, 20 percent married without cohabiting, and 37 percent married including those who also cohabited.

Differences by age and race are large and significant as expected, with younger persons and majority whites more likely to cohabit and more likely to marry. For both of these variables, it is somewhat disconcerting that none of the other variables mediate the observed effects. Age effects appear considerably larger after controlling for the variables in block A, and neither race nor age effects on cohabitation or marriage are diminished by the addition of NSFH1 market behaviors, religion, or orientations toward these behaviors.

The most striking negative result in the logit regressions of this set of variables is the lack of a significant effect for education. The **observed** transitions are very strongly consistent with the education differences in both ever cohabiting and current cohabitation presented earlier: 41 percent of women without a high school diploma cohabited compared to 26 percent of those with a college degree; and, conversely, marriage was positively related to education. Nonetheless, there were no significant education effects after the other variables in this set were controlled in model 2 (particularly race and age).

It is also surprising that we find no independent effects for parental family background. In this case, we might think that the model is mis-specified by including the strong effects of whether the respondent had sex before age 18 (which could mediate parental background), but excluding this variable from model 2 does not alter the coefficients reported for this model.

In the observed means in Table 3, early sex is strongly related to cohabitation: 42 percent of those with sex before age 18 cohabited compared to 32 percent of others. This effect is reduced but remains significant when other variables are controlled, and a significant effect of similar magnitude emerges in the final model for marriage. Thus, having begun sex at an early age appears to capture a dimension affecting the formation of unions that is not captured by the

attitudes measured here.

Two final observations on the variables in block A: 1) Having cohabited before NSFH1 is strongly related to prospective cohabitation, but not to marriage; and 2) Women who were not employed were **less** likely to marry than those who were.

B. Current Market Behavior

The B sections of the Tables 3-5 include the effects of whether the respondent had sex in the last month (or never had sex), number of persons dated in the last month, and whether they had a “steady.” One issue that needs more attention in further survey measurement is the continuum across not cohabiting and cohabiting “steady” relationships (Leridon and Villeneuve-Gokalp, 1989). Being sexually active in the month before NSFH1 is strongly related to cohabiting as a first union relationship — but then also to marriage following cohabitation (column 3 of Table 2). Persons who had not dated in the month before NSFH1 were less likely to cohabit and marry, and those who had dated many partners were likely to cohabit, but less likely to marry than those with only 1 or 2 partners.

Obviously these variables are related. In the multivariate analyses in models 3-5, being sexually active and dating three or more persons in the last month are the primary variables predicting cohabitation, whereas being sexually active and having a steady are the primary variables predicting marriage. We would expect the effects of these variables to be mediated by both the religion and attitude variables, but they persist unchanged (or even strengthened) when these variables are included in models 4 and 5. This is similar to the finding for having begun sex before age 18, and seems likely to index similar factors — perhaps a more basic interest in the opposite sex reflecting both hormonal and socialization differences (Udry, 1988).

C. Religion and Family Traditionalism

There are few differences by major religious/denominational categories. Baptists are less

likely to cohabit, and less likely to marry, (model 1 in Tables 4 and 5), but these differences disappear completely when race is included in the model. Persons reporting no religious affiliation are not more likely to cohabit (once age is taken into account in model 1), but they are much less likely to marry.

Those who attend church weekly, fundamentalists, and those with the most traditional values are less likely to cohabit, and most likely to marry as first union. It is of interest that these effects on cohabitation go away **completely** in model 4 which controls for the socio-economic variables and marriage market behaviors. In future work, we clearly need to disaggregate how much of this is actually mediated by differences in sex and market behaviors and how much is spurious.

Attitudes Toward Marriage and Cohabitation

In general, we are finding that NSFH1 attitudes toward behaviors are highly predictive of the experience that followed. Scoring highly on the preference for marriage scale is strongly related to the likelihood of marriage as a first union (40% vs. about 17%), and to any marriage in the period. The relationship with cohabitation, however, is curvilinear and insignificant. Only in the final model with all variables included does the expected negative relationship with cohabitation emerge (with only marginal significance).

The scale based on the items about whether life would be better if married also shows the expected relationship with marriage, though these effects do not persist in the final model. The highest category of the preference for marriage scale surely captures those who were engaged or otherwise explicitly planning marriage to a particular partner at NSFH1. It is too bad that we did not ask more directly about that for this sample. (We do have a direct measure for cohabiting couples.)

The single item measuring a preference to cohabit is strongly related to subsequent cohabitation (57% for those agreeing vs. 28% among those disagreeing). It is evidence of the

strength of factors leading to cohabitation that a quarter of those who **disagreed** with this item cohabited in the following 5-6 years, nonetheless. The effects of this variable are captured by the attitudes toward cohabitation (which we will examine in a moment) since they disappear in model 5.

It is the scale based on reasons for **not** cohabiting that captures the most interesting variation here: this variable is strongly and negatively related to cohabitation and positively related to marriage as a first union. Of those agreeing with many reasons for not cohabiting, 24 percent cohabited as a first union compared to 42 percent of those agreeing with few reasons; the proportions marrying as a first union were 26 vs. 15 percent respectively. The cohabitation effect remains significant in the final model of Table 4. The single item on disapproval of cohabitation shows a similar relationship to cohabitation, but its effects do not persist in model 5.

Finally, we thought that the measure on whether it “would be alright for me to have children without being married” should have effects on both cohabitation and marriage. Those adverse to the prospect of an unmarried birth should be less likely to cohabit and more likely to marry. These differences appear in both the means in Table 3 and the effects in model 1 of Tables 4 and 5, but not in model 5. Of course, negative attitudes toward cohabitation could be “caused by” and hence mediate the effect of a desire to avoid an unmarried birth.

We were impressed in analyses of NSFH1 data with the responses of young persons to this question about whether they approved of a nonmarital birth for themselves. One-third said they agreed with the statement and only a third explicitly disagreed (Bumpass, Sweet, and Cherlin, 1991). The truly striking finding with respect to this measure is the effect on actual experience with an unmarried birth since NSFH1. Though the tables are not included in this report, we note that **one-fifth** of those scoring low on disapproval actually had an unmarried birth since NSFH1. (This effect remains very strong and significant with all the other variables controlled.) These

findings are surely consistent with the argument that declining stigma has contributed to increased nonmarital childbearing. This clearly needs more attention, but preliminary results indicate that these births were as likely to have been unplanned as those occurring to persons who strongly disapproved — suggesting that decisions about abortion and marriage may have been more central in this differential than decisions about intentional pregnancy.

Union Stability

In Table 6 we turn our attention to the analysis of the stability of marriages and cohabitations begun in the 10 years preceding NSFH1. The structure of the analysis is similar to the preceding. The first column of this table reports the observed proportion who have separated since the first interview. Model 1 adjusts only for age, duration and interval length; model 2 adds union and childbearing variables, education, employment, and husband's share of household tasks and income; model 3 adds religion and traditional family attitudes; model 4 adds measures of the marital/cohabiting relationship, and model 5 adds the CESD depression measure. Again, we will not discuss every variable.

Almost a quarter of these NSFH1 unions had disrupted by the second interview, a third among blacks and a fifth among majority whites. The lower rate for whites relative to blacks is reduced when other background variables are taken into account, and becomes insignificant when we add in the relationship measures. The odds ratio for majority whites compared to blacks is reduced from being 40 percent lower to 23 percent lower, most of this as a consequence of including the relationship variables. Further analysis, not included in the tables, indicates that this reduction is primarily associated with the scale of how things would be different if separated, and in the future, we will try to disaggregate this mediation into the components of this scale (and will do so with an expanded sample to include longer durations).

Women who were in a single-parent family at age 15 were much more likely to have their relationship break up. The effect is markedly reduced by including associated background characteristics, but remains strong and significant in all models with an odds ratio of 1.58 in the final model.

The major story in this analysis, however, concerns the relationship between cohabitation and union stability (Bennett, Blanc, and Bloom, 1988; Schoen, 1992). Compositional differences

account for a large proportion of the very high separation rate of cohabiting unions: the odds ratio compared to married women who had never cohabited decreases from 3.9 to 1.6 between models 1 and 2. As we can see in the comparisons of models 2 through 4 in Figure 6, adding in the religious and traditional family attitudes variables further reduces the higher rate of disruption for marriages preceded by cohabitation but not of current cohabitations.

When the relationship variables are added in model 4, there is no longer a significantly higher disruption rate for cohabiting couples. Hence this work tentatively suggests that selection on family attitudes accounts for some of the higher disruption rate of marriages preceded by cohabitation, but that the majority of the difference is accounted for by differences in the quality of the relationship observed at the first interview (Thomson and Colella, 1992). Clearly, the next step here must be to try to understand which aspects of the relationship are involved and how those differences in relationship might be linked to the process leading to cohabitation.

There are some important, and some surprising, findings with respect to employment patterns and household task allocation. The pattern by wives' employment is not clear cut, but it suggests an interesting set of relationships. A negative coefficient for not working begins to emerge in model 4 (when relationship quality is controlled), and is significant in model 5 (when the depression measure is added).³ This suggests that the reason we don't see this effect in earlier models is because these marriages score lower on the quality measures and higher on the depression measures. The lower disruption rate with all else controlled is consistent with the relative economic independence hypothesis.

There is a very strong, persistent, and significant effect for women who work shifts with varying hours or days. The proportion separating since NSFH1 is 35 percent for these women

³ It is important to keep in mind that this is not a clinical measure of depression, but rather a scale of “distress” that is related to depression. Hence, we avoid speaking in terms of the prevalence of depression or of women who are depressed.

compared to 22 percent for others. While this could reflect some selection on unmeasured characteristics, it clearly points to the need for more attention to work schedule issues, including the incorporation of this variable for the husband's schedule as well. After compositional differences are taken into account, we observe a significant increase in separations for unions with an unemployed male at first interview.

In last year's poster session, we presented **very** preliminary results from early NSFH2 interviews on the role of the gender division of labor in union stability. The present results are even stronger. The key point is that we do not find that husbands' involvement in housework reduces separation, as Waite and Goldscheider's **New Families, No Families** (1991) would lead us to expect. Rather, a strong **positive** effect on separation emerges when compositional differences are entered in model 2 that is not explained by the relationship quality measures of model 4. The odds ratio in model 4 are twice as high for women whose husbands are in the upper half of the distribution in terms of the proportion of household tasks performed by the husband. This effect does not appear in a ratio based on the performance of female-typed tasks, nor does it appear in the actual hours performed by husbands and wives. We hope to sort this out better in the future, but the conclusion that greater investments in household tasks by husbands is not associated with higher stability is supported in all of our measures.

We will conclude with a striking finding with respect to the various measures of couple relationships that we collected at NSFH1. As can be seen in the observed transitions and model 1, each of these strongly predicts subsequent stability. These are all pretty good measures. For example, the contrast in the proportion separating between the lowest and highest categories is: 30 vs. 19 for Time Spent Together, 40 vs. 13 for How Life Different if Separate, and 38 vs. 16 for Global Happiness.

The final measure asked the respondents to estimate “the chances that you and your husband

will eventually separate or divorce.” Clearly, this is a hard question to answer with considerable social-desirability bias in the responses. Nonetheless, the proportions separating were 15 percent among women responding “very low,” 28 percent among those saying “low,” and 52 percent of those who gave a response of “about even” or higher.

What we find most impressive about this measure is that effects of all the other variables are markedly reduced, and are no longer significant, when included in the same model with perceived instability. This single question seems to capture most of the information about the prospects of separation that is represented in the other relationship measures and scales. Of course, we expect the other measures to be useful in our attempts to understand which aspects of relationship quality may mediate the effects of other variables.

Conclusion

This PAA presentation is an overview of work in process and an early glimpse at preliminary findings from NSFH2. In general, the new data appear very promising for the analyses of these important family transitions. This material is being circulated in this format because it was presented at the PAA, but future reports will focus on the various specific topics covered.

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APPENDIX

Attitudes Toward Marriage:

Preference for Marriage

E508A:E628A "I am not mature enough yet for marriage"

E508B:E628B "I would rather be able to spend time with my friends than to be married now."

1 Strongly agree ... 5 Strongly disagree

How Life Different if Married

E501A...G:E625A...G "For each of the following areas, please circle how you think your life might be different if you were MARRIED now."

1 Much Worse 5 Much Better

"standard of living"

"economic security"

"overall happiness"

"freedom to do what you want"

"economic independence"

"sex life"

"friendships with others"

Conditions for Marriage

E502A...E:E626A...E "Listed below are considerations that are important to some people in thinking about WHEN to get married. Please circle how important you feel each one would be to you in thinking about WHEN to get married"

1 Not at all important...7 Very important

"having enough money saved"

"finishing all of the schooling you plan to get"

"being established in your job"

"your partner finishing all of the schooling he/she plans to get"

"your partner being established in his/her job"

-this scale did not systematically relate to cohabitation or marriage

Market Barriers

E503 "Listed below are considerations that are important to some people in thinking about WHETHER TO MARRY someone. Please circle how willing you would be to marry someone who..."

1 Not at all willing...7 Very willing

A "was older than you by 5 or more years?"

B "was younger than you by 5 or more years?"

C "had been married before?"

D "already had children?"

E "was not likely to hold a steady job?"

F "was of a different religion?"

- G “was of a different race?”
- H “would earn much less than you?”
- I “would earn much more than you?”
- J “was not 'good looking'?”
- K “had more education than you?”
- L “had less education than you?”

For Men: A,C,D,F,G,J,K

For Women: B,C,D,E,F,G,H,J,L

-this scale did not systematically relate to cohabitation or marriage

Attitudes toward cohabitation and unwed births:

Reasons for Cohabitation

E506A...F:E623A...F Many couples these days live together without being married. Here are some reasons why a person might WANT to live with someone of the opposite sex without marrying. Please circle how important each reason is to you.”

1 Not at all important... 7 Very important

“it requires less personal commitment than marriage”

“it is more sexually satisfying than dating”

“it makes it possible to share living expenses”

“it requires less sexual faithfulness than marriage”

“couples can make sure they are compatible before getting married”

“it allows each partner to be more independent than does marriage”

Reasons Not to Cohabit

E507A...F:E624A...F “ Here are some reasons why a person might NOT want to live with someone of the opposite sex without marrying. Please circle how important each reason is to you.”

1 Not at all important...7 Very important.

Would Like to Cohabit

E508I “I would like to live with someone before getting married”

1 Strongly Agree... 5 Strongly Disagree

Disapproval of Cohabitation

“It would be alright for me to live with someone without being married...”

1 Strongly Agree... 5 Strongly Disagree

E508F1 “even if we had no interest in considering marriage”

E508F2 “to find out whether we were compatible for marriage”

E508F3 “if we were planning to get married”

Disapproval of Nonmarital Birth for Self

“It would be alright for me to have children without being married...”

1 Strongly Agree... 5 Strongly Disagree

E508E1 “even if I had no plans to marry the father/mother”

E508E2 “if I had definite plans to marry the father/mother”

Relationship variables (for cohabiting and married couples)--each of these variables is built for the respondent, for the spouse/partner, and then a couple variable is built by combining the two.

How Life Different If Separated

E617:E713 “Even though it may be very unlikely, think for a moment about how various areas of your life might be different if you separated. For each of the following areas, how do you think things would change?”

1 Very Low... 5 Very High

A “your standard of living”

B “your social life”

C “your career opportunities”

D “your overall happiness”

E “your sex life”

Relationship Unfair to Respondent

E607:E703 “How do you feel about the fairness in your relationship in each of the following areas?”

1 Very unfair to me 2 Somewhat unfair to me ...5 Very unfair to him/her
(constructed counting only codes 1 and 2)

A “household chores”

B “working for pay”

C “spending money”

Time Spent Together

E608:E704 “During the past month, how often did you and your partner (husband/wife) spend time alone with each other, talking or sharing an activity?”

1 Never 2 About once a month 3 Two to three times a week

4 About once a week 5 Two or three times a week 6 Almost every day

Global Marital/Cohab Happiness

E606:E701 “Taking all things together, how would you describe your marriage?”

1 Very unhappy...Very happy

Frequency Disagree

E610:E706 “The following is a list of subjects on which couples often have disagreements. How often, if at all, in the last year have you had open disagreements about each of the following?”

1 Never...6 Almost every day

- A “household tasks”
- B “money”
- C “spending time together”
- D “sex”
- F “in-laws”

Frequency Argue/Fight

E611:E707 “There are various ways that (married) couples deal with serious disagreements. When you have a serious disagreement with your partner (husband/wife), how often do you:

- C “argue heatedly or shout at each other?”
- D “end up hitting or throwing things at each other?”

1 Never 2 Seldom 3 Sometimes 4 Very often 5 Always

Trouble in Relationship

E619:E715 “During the past year, have you ever thought that your relationship (marriage) might be in trouble?”

E620:E716 “Do you feel that way now?”

E621:E717 “During the past year have you and your partner (husband/wife) discussed the idea of separating?”

1 Yes 2 No

Coded 1 if No to E619:E715

Coded 2 if Yes to E620:E716 and but no to E621:E717

Coded 3 if Yes to E621:E717

Likelihood Will Separate

E622:E718 “It is always difficult to predict what will happen in a relationship (marriage), but realistically, what do you think the chances are that you and your partner (husband/wife) will eventually separate or divorce?”

1 Very low...4 High 5 Very high (4 and 5 combined)

Fundamentalism and Traditional Family Attitudes

Fundamentalism

E1360H “I regard myself as a religious fundamentalist”

E1359J “The Bible is God's word and everything happened or will happen exactly as it says.”

E1360D “The Bible is the answer to all important human problems.?”

1 Strongly Agree...5 Strongly Disagree

Code 2 E1360H le 2 or (E1359J le 2 and E1360D le 2)

Code 3 E1360H le 2 and (E1359J le 2 and E1360D le 2)

Code 1 ELSE

Traditional Family Attitudes

E1354 "Please circle the number that best represents how much you approve or disapprove of the behaviors described"

1 Strongly approve...7 Strongly disapprove

D "women who have a child without getting married?"

E "a couple with an unhappy marriage getting a divorce if their youngest child is under 5"

E1359:E1360 "Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

1 Strongly agree...5 Strongly disagree

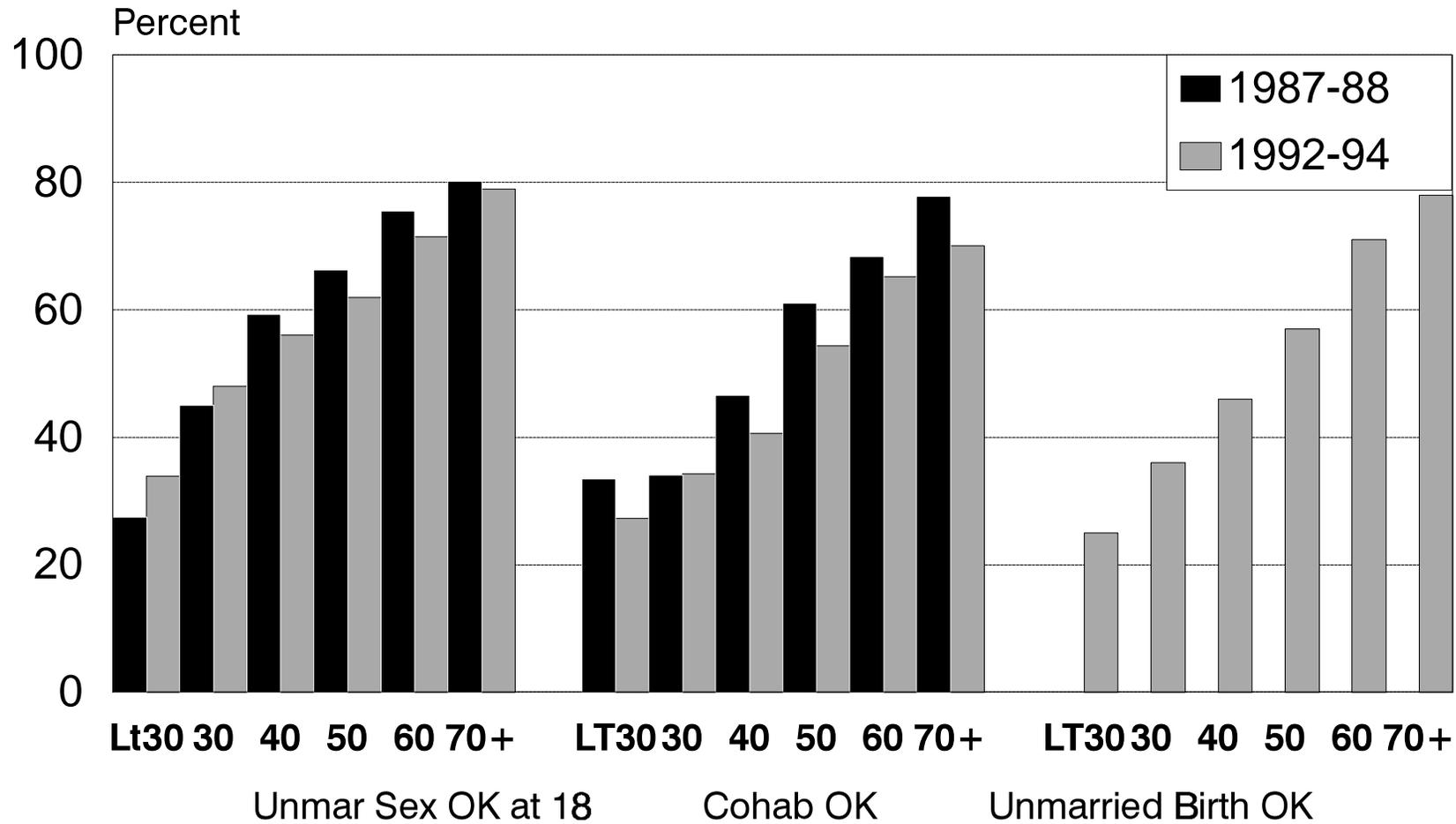
E1359H "It is all right for an unmarried couple to live together even if they have no interest in considering marriage."

E1359M "In a successful marriage, the partners must have freedom to do what they want individually"

E1360B "It is all right for unmarried 18 year olds to have sexual relations if they have strong affection for each other."

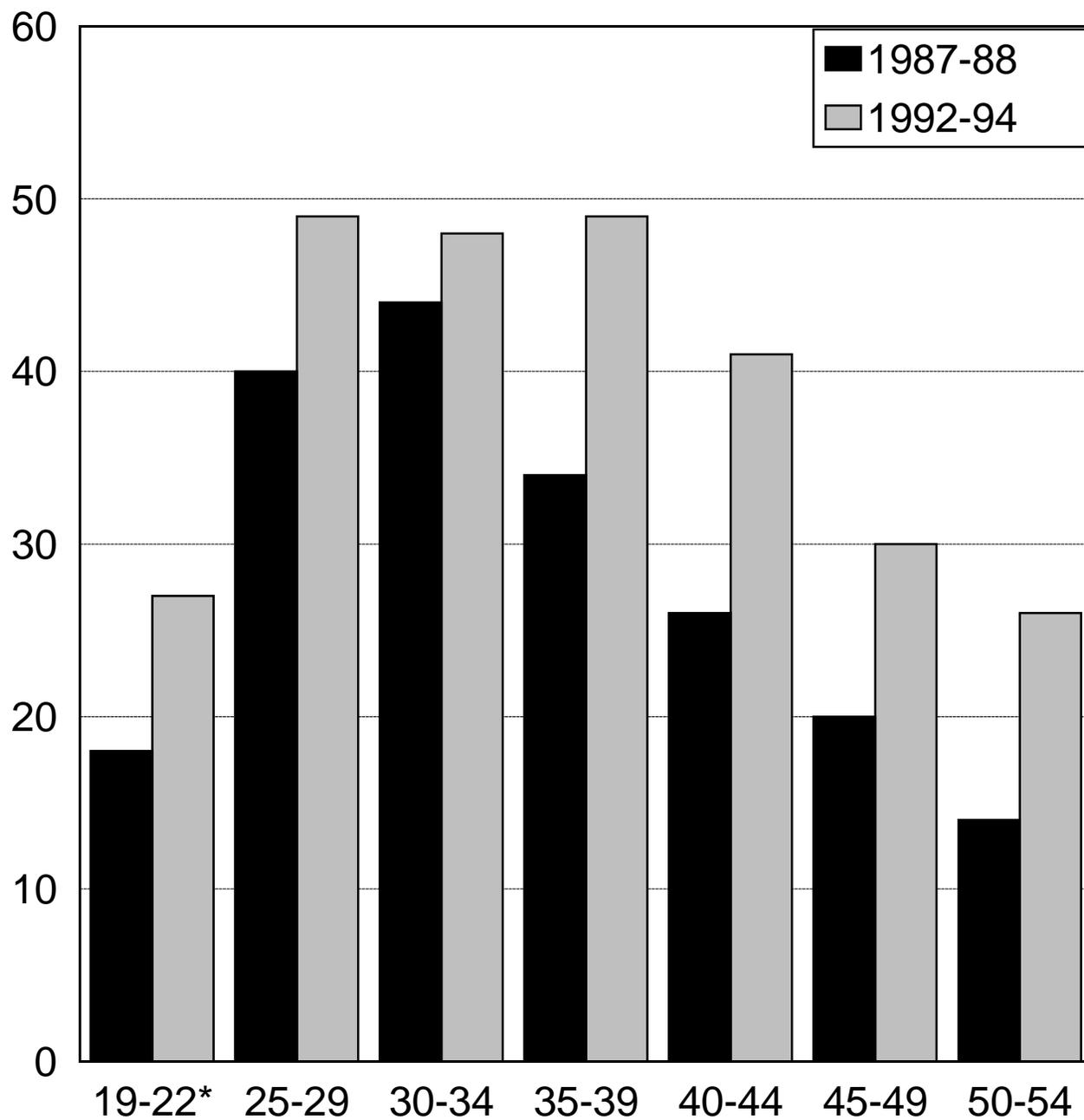
E1360K "It is all right for an unmarried couple to live together as long as they have plans to marry."

Figure 1. Percent Disagreeing With Three Measures of Family Attitudes, by Age at NSFH1: NSFH1 1987-88, NSFH2 1992-94



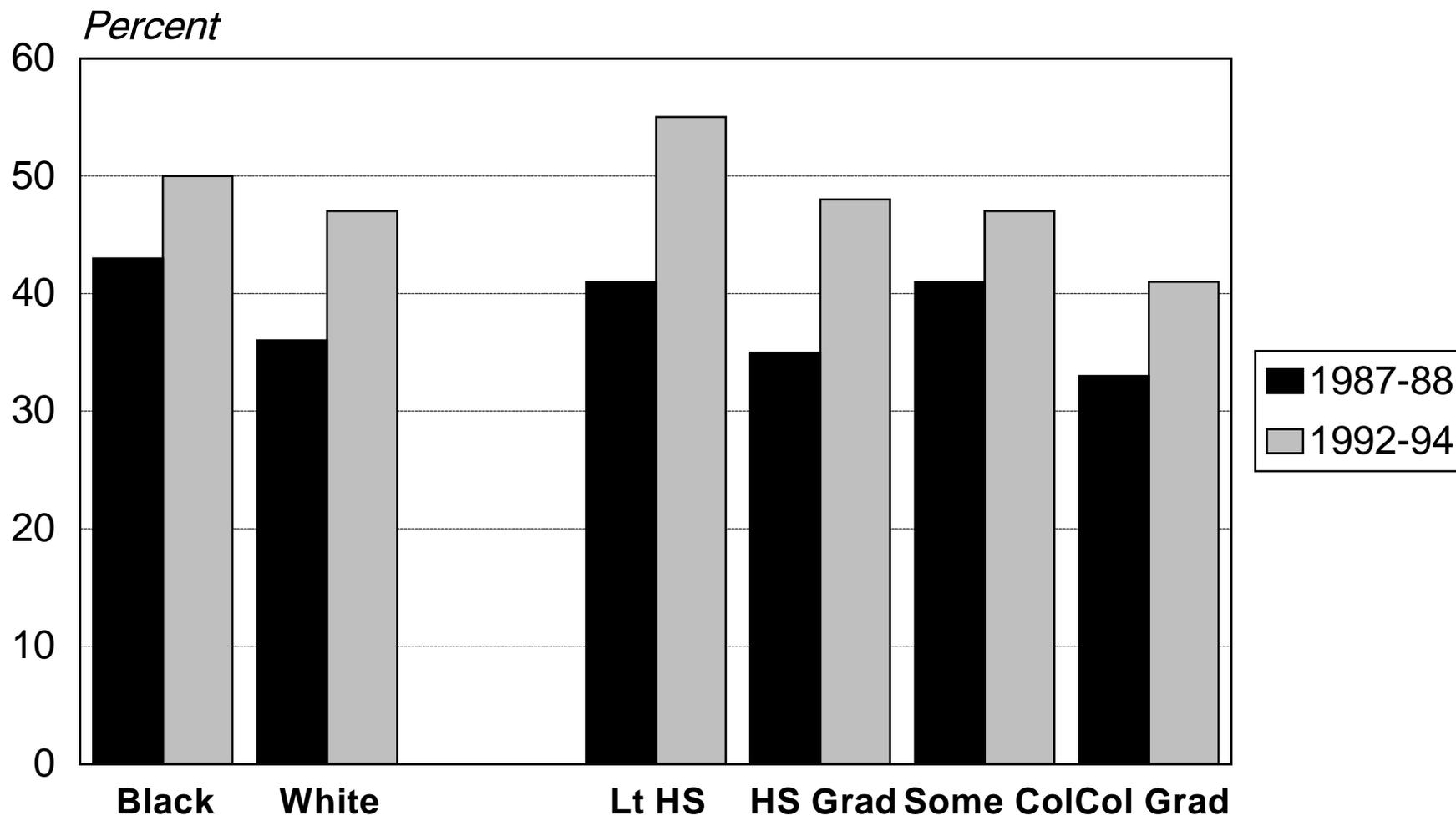
Last Item Included Only in 1992-94

*Figure 2. Percent Who Have Ever Cohabited:
By Age in Year of Interview, NSFH1 and NSFH2*



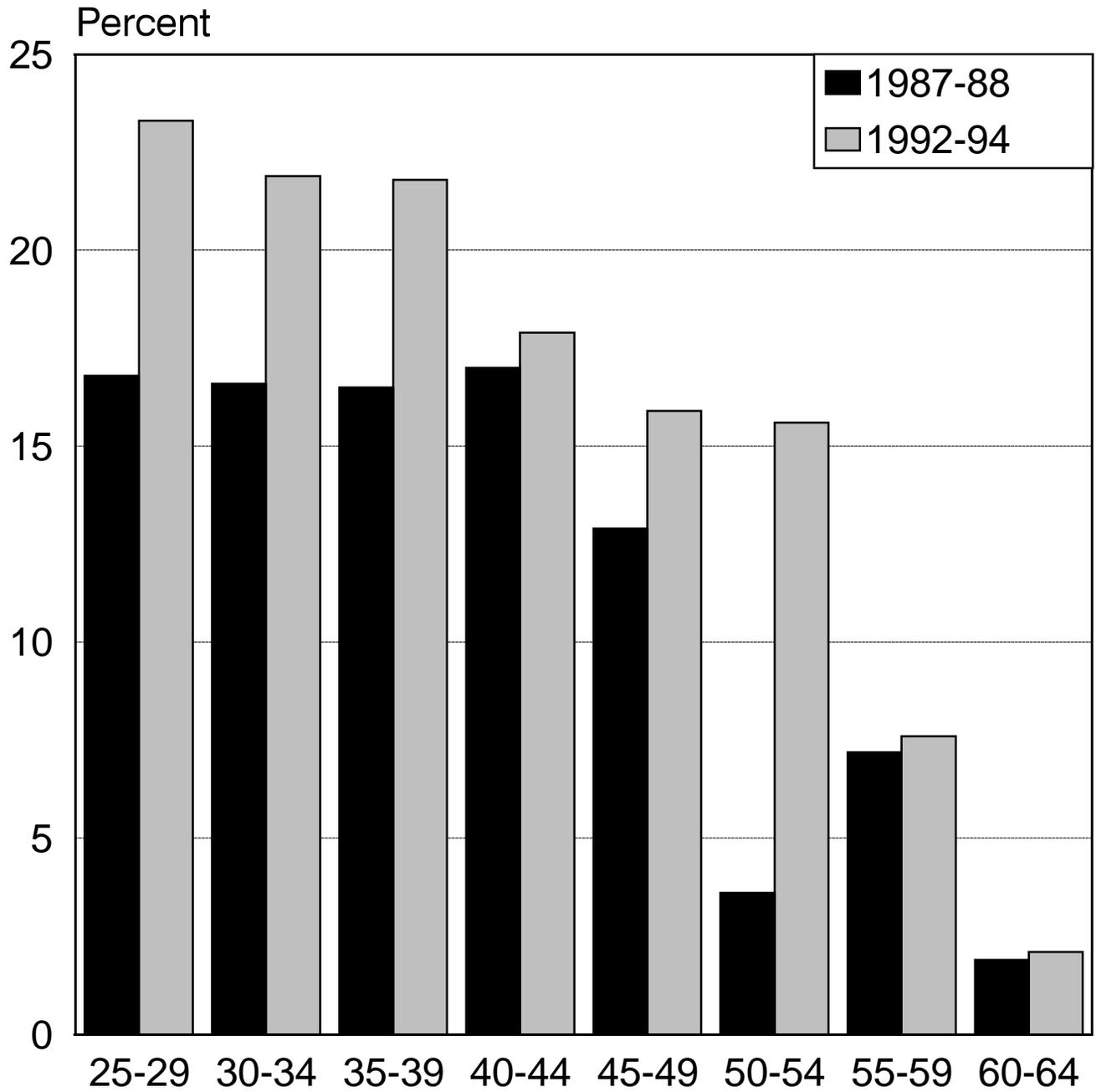
*1992-94 estimates for ages 19-22 from interviews with participants' children

Figure 3. Percent Who Have Ever Cohabited, 1987-88 and 1992-94 by Race/Ethnicity and Education



Persons 25-45

Figure 4. Percent Currently Cohabiting 1987-88 and 1992-94, by Age in Each Year



Unmarried Persons 25-64

*Figure 5. Percent Cohabiting, 1987-88 and 1992-94
by Race/Ethnicity and Education*

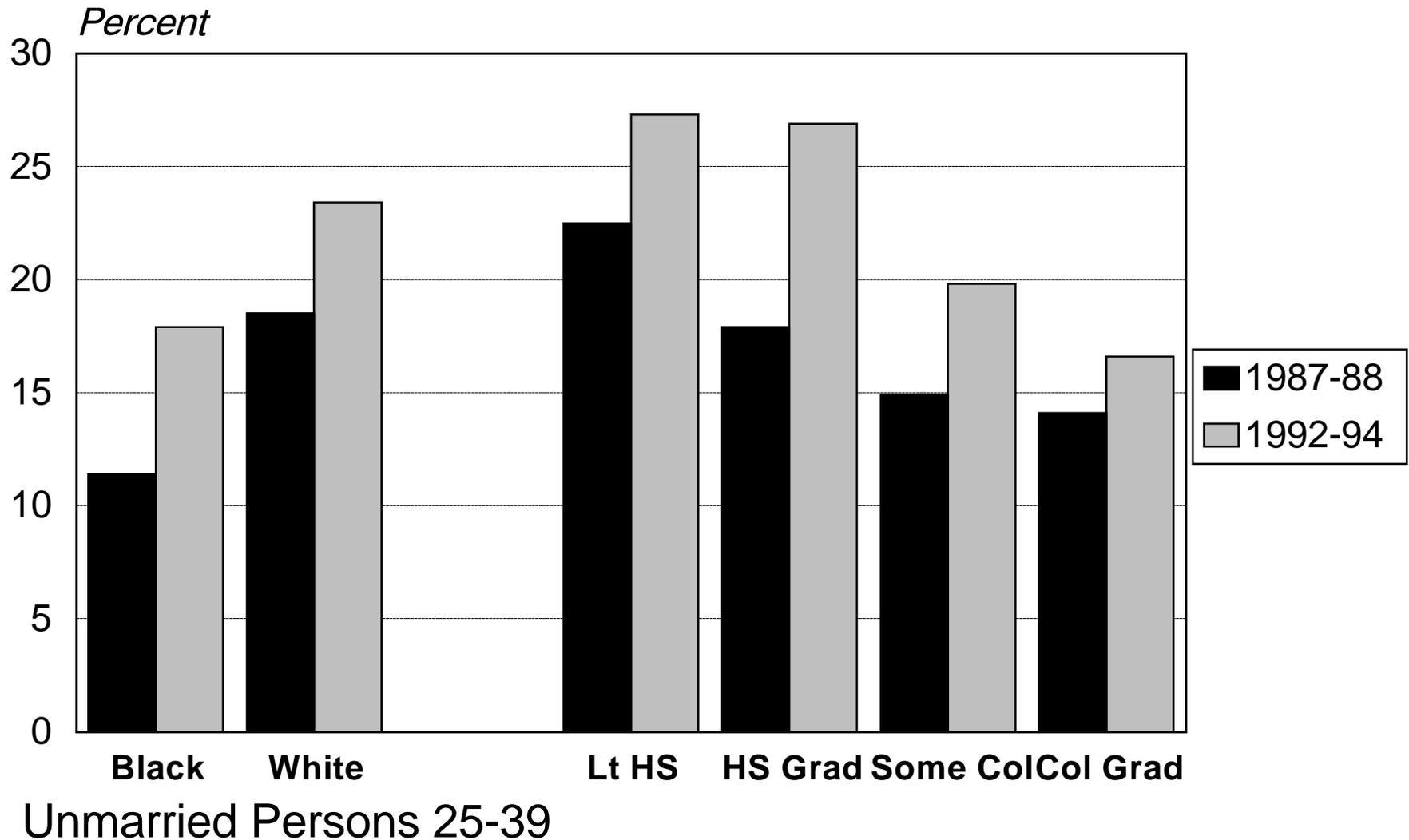
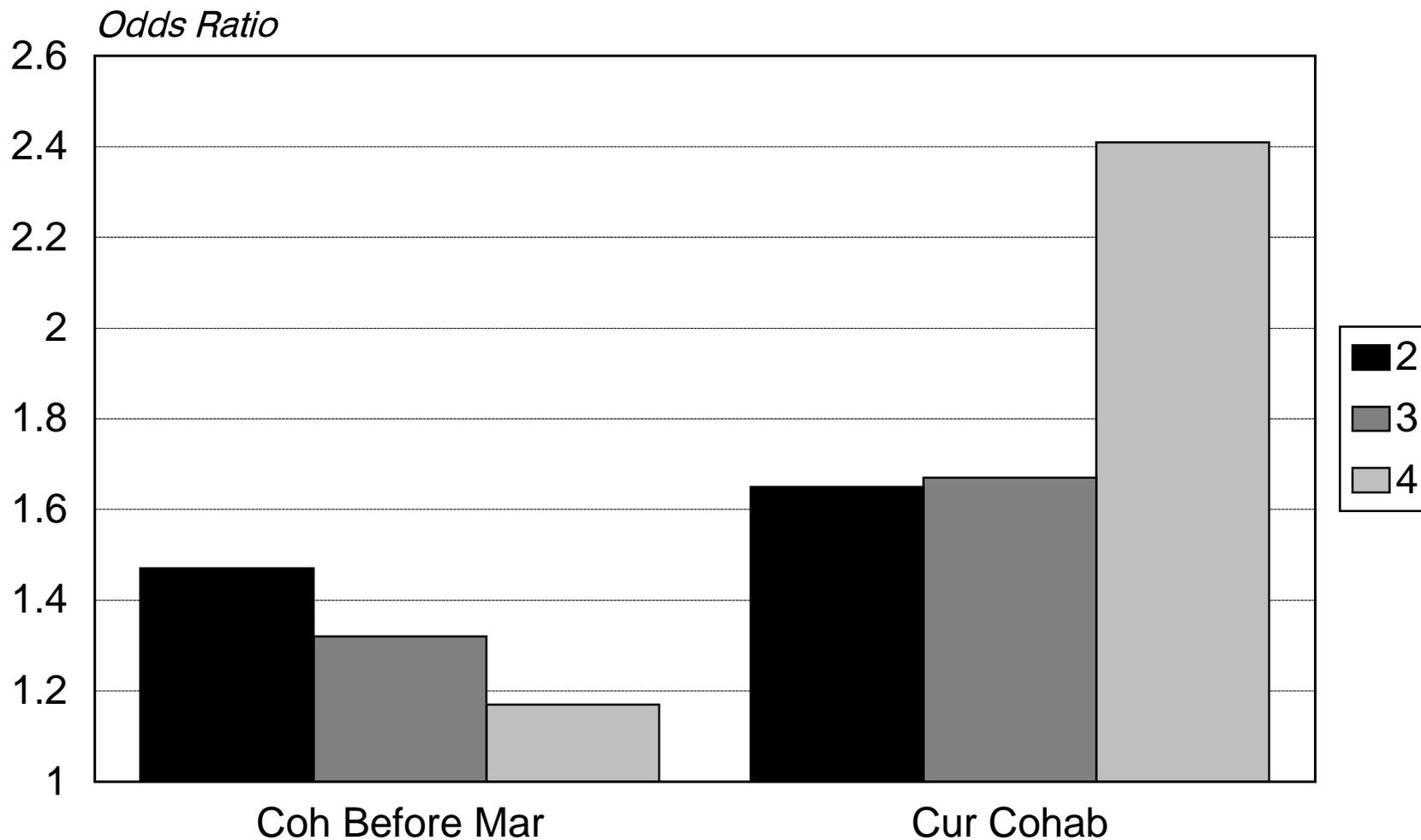


Figure 6. Effects of Cohabitation on Union Disruption, Cohabitations and Marriages under 10 Years Duration at NSFH1



Models: 2 Net Background: 3 + Relig and Trad: 4 + Relationship

Table 1. Percent Who Have Ever Cohabited, NSFH1 and NSFH2

| | Total | | 25-34 | | 35-44 | |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 1987-88 | 1992-94 | 1987-88 | 1992-94 | 1987-88 | 1992-94 |
| Age | | | | | | |
| 19-22* | 18 | 27 | | | | |
| 25-29 | 40 | 49 | | | | |
| 30-34 | 44 | 48 | | | | |
| 35-39 | 34 | 49 | | | | |
| 40-44 | 26 | 41 | | | | |
| 45-49 | 20 | 30 | | | | |
| 50-54 | 14 | 26 | | | | |
| Persons 25-44 | | | | | | |
| Total | 37 | 47 | 42 | 47 | 31 | 45 |
| Race/Ethnicity | | | | | | |
| Black | 43 | 50 | 48 | 50 | 36 | 49 |
| White | 36 | 47 | 42 | 49 | 30 | 45 |
| Mex/Am | 30 | 38 | 34 | 38 | 24 | 39 |
| Education | | | | | | |
| 0-11 | 41 | 55 | 47 | 62 | 34 | 48 |
| 12 | 35 | 48 | 42 | 51 | 26 | 43 |
| Some Col | 41 | 47 | 46 | 45 | 36 | 49 |
| Col Grad | 33 | 41 | 36 | 37 | 30 | 42 |
| Gender | | | | | | |
| Male | 37 | 47 | 42 | 47 | 32 | 48 |
| Female | 36 | 46 | 42 | 50 | 29 | 42 |

* 1992-94 estimates for ages 19-22 from interviews

Table 2. Percent Currently Cohabiting, NSFH1 and NSFH2

| | <u>Percent of Total</u> | | <u>Percent of Unmarried</u> | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|---------|
| | 1987-88 | 1992-94 | 1987-88 | 1992-94 |
| Age | | | | |
| 25-29 | 7.2 | 12.9 | 16.8 | 23.3 |
| 30-34 | 4.9 | 8.6 | 16.6 | 21.9 |
| 35-39 | 3.7 | 6.5 | 16.5 | 21.8 |
| 40-44 | 3.9 | 4.8 | 17.0 | 17.9 |
| 45-49 | 2.9 | 4.2 | 12.9 | 15.9 |
| 50-54 | .9 | 3.7 | 3.6 | 15.6 |
| 55-59 | 1.9 | 2.3 | 7.2 | 7.6 |
| 60-65 | .5 | .6 | 1.9 | 2.1 |
| Persons 25-39 | | | | |
| Race/Ethnicity | | | | |
| Black | 6.3 | 12.2 | 11.4 | 17.9 |
| White | 5.1 | 8.5 | 18.5 | 23.4 |
| Education | | | | |
| Lt HS Grad | 9.3 | 13.5 | 22.5 | 27.3 |
| HS Grad | 5.3 | 10.9 | 17.9 | 26.9 |
| Some College | 4.9 | 8.8 | 14.9 | 19.8 |
| College Grad | 4.1 | 5.9 | 14.1 | 16.6 |

Table 3. Means On Dependent Variables for Single Women Under Age 35 at NSFH1

| | First Union T1T2 | | Mar. (inc. after cohab) |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-----|----------------------------|
| | Coh | Mar | |
| <i>A. Background</i> | | | |
| Total | 37 | 20 | 37 |
| Race/Ethnicity | | | |
| Black | 30 | 14 | 22 |
| NonHispanic White | 39 | 24 | 43 |
| Mexican Amer. | 42 | 11 | 42 |
| Age | | | |
| 19-24 | 42 | 23 | 42 |
| 25-29 | 33 | 15 | 30 |
| 30-34 | 30 | 16 | 30 |
| Parental Family Age 15 | | | |
| Both parents | 36 | 21 | 38 |
| Stepparent | 43 | 21 | 45 |
| One parent | 39 | 16 | 32 |
| Parental Family Welfare | | | |
| No | 37 | 21 | 39 |
| Yes | 38 | 13 | 27 |
| Sex Before Age 18 | | | |
| No | 31 | 21 | 35 |
| Yes | 42 | 20 | 39 |
| Ever Cohabit | | | |
| No | 32 | 22 | 37 |
| Yes | 52 | 15 | 37 |
| Married Before | | | |
| No | 36 | 20 | 37 |
| Yes | 43 | 18 | 38 |
| Children | | | |
| None | 36 | 23 | 40 |
| 1+ | 40 | 14 | 32 |
| Education | | | |
| <12 years | 41 | 15 | 29 |
| 12 years | 43 | 18 | 39 |
| Some college | 36 | 22 | 38 |
| College grad | 26 | 24 | 37 |

Table 3. (continued)

| | First Union T1T2 | | Mar. (inc. after cohab) |
|---|------------------|-----|----------------------------|
| | Coh | Mar | |
| Currently Enrolled | | | |
| No or Parttime | 39 | 20 | 38 |
| Fulltime | 30 | 19 | 31 |
| Employment Hours | | | |
| 35-44 | 32 | 17 | 29 |
| 45+ | 35 | 23 | 39 |
| 1-34 | 40 | 22 | 42 |
| 0 | 39 | 22 | 43 |
| B. Marriage Market Behavior | | | |
| Sex | | | |
| Never | 20 | 26 | 33 |
| 0 Last Month | 28 | 19 | 33 |
| 1+ | 52 | 18 | 42 |
| Number of Persons Dated Last Month | | | |
| 0 | 20 | 12 | 22 |
| 1-2 | 40 | 24 | 43 |
| 3+ | 41 | 16 | 33 |
| Has "Steady" | | | |
| No | 32 | 13 | 26 |
| Yes | 44 | 27 | 49 |
| C. Religion and Family Attitudes | | | |
| Religious Affiliation | | | |
| Catholic | 42 | 20 | 39 |
| Baptist | 31 | 19 | 30 |
| Other Protestant | 37 | 26 | 46 |
| Other | 30 | 19 | 35 |
| None | 44 | 8 | 26 |
| Church Attendance | | | |
| None | 47 | 12 | 31 |
| LT Monthly | 41 | 22 | 45 |
| Monthly | 36 | 16 | 31 |
| Weekly | 27 | 27 | 38 |

Table 3. (continued)

| | First Union T1T2 | | Mar. (inc. after cohab) |
|--|------------------|-----|----------------------------|
| | Coh | Mar | |
| Fundamentalist | | | |
| Not | 41 | 18 | 37 |
| Partial agree | 31 | 24 | 39 |
| Agree | 28 | 24 | 36 |
| Traditional Family Attitudes | | | |
| 1 Least Traditional | 42 | 16 | 33 |
| 2 | 42 | 19 | 41 |
| 3 | 42 | 22 | 44 |
| 4 Most Traditional | 21 | 28 | 38 |
| <i>D. Attitudes Toward Marriage, Cohabitation, and Unmarried Childbearing</i> | | | |
| Preference for Marriage | | | |
| 1 Least | 35 | 15 | 29 |
| 2 | 46 | 15 | 34 |
| 3 | 40 | 17 | 41 |
| 4 Most | 27 | 40 | 52 |
| How Life Different if Married | | | |
| 1 Worse | 35 | 14 | 31 |
| 2 | 41 | 17 | 35 |
| 3 | 46 | 20 | 44 |
| 4 Better | 35 | 24 | 40 |
| Would Like to Cohabit | | | |
| Agree | 47 | 15 | 35 |
| No opinion | 43 | 15 | 32 |
| Disagree | 27 | 29 | 43 |
| Reasons for Cohabitation | | | |
| 1 Few Important | 34 | 23 | 38 |
| 2 | 33 | 30 | 45 |
| 3 | 44 | 9 | 29 |
| 4 Many Important | 42 | 19 | 37 |
| Reasons Not to Cohabit | | | |
| 1 Few Important | 42 | 15 | 35 |
| 2 | 48 | 18 | 39 |
| 3 | 37 | 24 | 38 |
| 4 Many Important | 24 | 26 | 39 |

Table 3. (continued)

| | First Union T1T2 | | Mar. (inc. after cohab) |
|---|------------------|-----|----------------------------|
| | Coh | Mar | |
| Disapproval of Cohabitation | | | |
| 1 Low Disapproval | 47 | 13 | 29 |
| 2 | 48 | 13 | 32 |
| 3 High Disapproval | 28 | 28 | 44 |
| Disapproval of Nonmarital Birth for Self | | | |
| 1 Low | 42 | 16 | 35 |
| 2 | 41 | 15 | 27 |
| 3 | 40 | 17 | 43 |
| 4 High | 31 | 28 | 42 |
| CESD Depression Scale | | | |
| 1 Lowest Quartile | 29 | 23 | 38 |
| 2 | 39 | 19 | 36 |
| 3 | 39 | 21 | 38 |
| 4 Highest Quartile | 42 | 18 | 37 |
| Interval (6mos) | | | |
| 5.2 Yr. | 28 | 22 | 29 |
| 5.7 Yr. | 38 | 23 | 37 |
| 6.2 Yr. | 40 | 17 | 40 |
| 6.8 Yr. | 46 | 16 | 44 |

Table 4. Logit Analyses of Cohabitation Since NSFH, for Single Women Under Age 35 at NSFH1

| | Model | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| A. Background | | | | | |
| Race/Ethnicity | | | | | |
| Black | | | | | |
| NonHisp. White | | | | | |
| Mexican Amer. | .60* | .54* | .68* | .54* | .54* |
| | .31 | .33 | .70# | .55* | .57 |
| Age | | | | | |
| 19-24 | | | | | |
| 25-29 | -.30# | -.62* | -.58* | -.57* | -.55* |
| 30-34 | -.48* | -.84* | -.74* | -.73* | -.67* |
| Parental Family Age 15 | | | | | |
| Both parents | | | | | |
| Stepparent | .05 | -.12 | -.18 | -.22 | -.22 |
| One parent | -.14 | -.18 | -.24 | -.28 | -.30# |
| Parental Family Welfare | | | | | |
| No | -.07 | .01 | -.01 | -.01 | -.08 |
| Yes | | | | | |
| Sex Before Age 18 | | | | | |
| No | | | | | |
| Yes | .50* | .33* | .54* | .53* | .56* |
| Ever Cohabit | | | | | |
| No | | | | | |
| Yes | 1.0* | .89* | .71* | .67* | .59* |
| Married Before | | | | | |
| No | | | | | |
| Yes | .51* | .06 | .06 | .11 | .16 |
| Children | | | | | |
| None | | | | | |
| 1+ | .38* | .23* | .13 | .11 | .13 |
| Education | | | | | |
| <12 years | | | | | |
| 12 years | .19 | .27 | .33# | .30 | .37# |
| Some college | -.12 | .11 | .15 | .09 | .17 |
| College grad | -.20 | .06 | .10 | .03 | .11 |

Logit coefficient is 1.5-1.9 * its standard error.

* Logit coefficient is ≥ 2 * its standard error.

Model 1 includes each variable net of age and interval.

Table 4. (continued)

| | Model | | | | |
|--|-------|------|------|------|-------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Currently Enrolled | | | | | |
| No or Parttime | | | | | |
| Fulltime | -.42# | .24 | -.10 | -.11 | -.13 |
| Employment Hours | | | | | |
| 35-44 | | | | | |
| 45+ | .10 | -.06 | -.16 | -.14 | -.14 |
| 1-34 | -.19 | -.23 | -.36 | -.36 | -.40# |
| 0 | -.05 | -.16 | -.13 | -.11 | -.12 |
| <i>B. Marriage Market Behavior</i> | | | | | |
| Sex | | | | | |
| Never | | | | | |
| 0 Last Month | 1.36* | | 1.5* | 1.4* | 1.46* |
| 1+ | 1.96* | | 1.9* | 1.8* | 1.85* |
| Number of Persons Dated Last Month | | | | | |
| 0 | | | | | |
| 1-2 | .67* | | .34 | .36# | .34 |
| 3+ | .91* | | .59* | .60* | .58* |
| Has "Steady" | | | | | |
| No | | | | | |
| Yes | .43* | | .28# | .30# | .35# |
| <i>C. Religion and Family Attitudes</i> | | | | | |
| Religious Affiliation | | | | | |
| Catholic | | | | | |
| Baptist | -.33# | | | -.18 | -.10 |
| Other Protestant | -.11 | | | -.04 | .01 |
| Other | -.24 | | | .10 | .22 |
| None | .04 | | | .04 | .09 |
| Church Attendance | | | | | |
| None | | | | | |
| LT Monthly | -.04 | | | -.12 | -.10 |
| Monthly | -.45* | | | -.14 | -.09 |
| Weekly | -.59* | | | -.14 | -.07 |

Table 4. (continued)

| | Model | | | | |
|--|-------|---|---|------|-------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Fundamentalist | | | | | |
| Not | | | | | |
| Partial agree | -.22# | | | .03 | .05 |
| Agree | -.47* | | | -.08 | -.09 |
| Traditional Family Attitudes | | | | | |
| 1 Least Traditional | | | | | |
| 2 | .10 | | | .20 | .20 |
| 3 | -.25 | | | .00 | .04 |
| 4 Most Traditional | -.77* | | | -.27 | -.16 |
| <i>D. Attitudes Toward Marriage, Cohabitation, and Unmarried Childbearing</i> | | | | | |
| Preference for Marriage | | | | | |
| 1 Least | | | | | |
| 2 | .31 | | | | .08 |
| 3 | .29 | | | | -.13 |
| 4 Most | -.07 | | | | -.42# |
| How Life Different if Married | | | | | |
| 1 Worse | | | | | |
| 2 | .11 | | | | .07 |
| 3 | .36# | | | | .43# |
| 4 Better | .10 | | | | .29 |
| Would Like to Cohabit | | | | | |
| Agree | | | | | |
| No opinion | -.35* | | | | -.15 |
| Disagree | -.85* | | | | -.11 |
| Reasons for Cohabitation | | | | | |
| 1 Few Important | | | | | |
| 2 | .27 | | | | -.14 |
| 3 | .31# | | | | -.12 |
| 4 Many Important | .38# | | | | .12 |
| Reasons Not to Cohabit | | | | | |
| 1 Few Important | | | | | |
| 2 | .02 | | | | -.00 |
| 3 | -.23 | | | | -.05 |
| 4 Many Important | -.76* | | | | -.52* |

Table 4. (continued)

| | Model | | | | |
|---|-------|---|---|---|------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Disapproval of Cohabitation | | | | | |
| 1 Low Disapproval | | | | | |
| 2 | .10 | | | | .19 |
| 3 High Disapproval | -.70* | | | | -.08 |
| Disapproval of Nonmarital Birth for Self | | | | | |
| 1 Low | | | | | |
| 2 | .06 | | | | .17 |
| 3 | -.12 | | | | .16 |
| 4 High | -.37* | | | | .25 |
| CESD Depression Scale | | | | | |
| 1 Lowest Quartile | | | | | ## |
| 2 | .22 | | | | .06 |
| 3 | .42* | | | | .27 |
| 4 Highest Quartile | .49* | | | | .41* |
| Interval (6mos) | | | | | |
| 5.2 Yr. | | | | | |
| 5.7 Yr. | .50* | | | | .39# |
| 6.2 Yr. | .56* | | | | .52* |
| 6.8 Yr. | .84* | | | | .90* |

Estimates for depression from model including all of Model 5, but depression not included in Model 5.

Table 5. Logit Analyses of Marriage Since NSFH, for Single Women Under Age 35 at NSFH1

| | Model | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| A. Background | | | | | |
| Race/Ethnicity | | | | | |
| Black | | | | | |
| NonHisp. White | 1.30* | 1.05* | 1.27* | 1.31* | 1.37* |
| Mexican Amer. | .53# | .51# | .80* | .85 | 1.10* |
| Age | | | | | |
| 19-24 | | | | | |
| 25-29 | -.55* | -.77* | -.74* | -.81* | -.87* |
| 30-34 | -.60* | -.93* | -.87* | -.94* | -1.11* |
| Parental Family Age 15 | | | | | |
| Both parents | | | | | |
| Stepparent | .11 | .26 | .24 | .39* | .40# |
| One parent | -.52* | -.17 | -.24 | -.23 | -.23 |
| Parental Family Welfare | | | | | |
| No | -.70* | -.29 | -.25 | -.23 | -.26 |
| Yes | | | | | |
| Sex Before Age 18 | | | | | |
| No | | | | | |
| Yes | .16 | .13 | .32# | .35# | .42* |
| Ever Cohabit | | | | | |
| No | | | | | |
| Yes | .20# | .06 | -.02 | .03 | .09 |
| Married Before | | | | | |
| No | | | | | |
| Yes | .60* | .37# | .32# | .28 | .25 |
| Children | | | | | |
| None | | | | | |
| 1+ | -.15 | .20 | .17 | .16 | .16 |
| Education | | | | | |
| <12 years | | | | | |
| 12 years | .30# | .13 | .16 | .07 | .11 |
| Some college | .32# | .09 | .16 | .01 | -.06 |
| College grad | .61* | .31 | .43 | .28 | .27 |

Logit coefficient is 1.5-1.9 * its standard error.

* Logit coefficient is ≥ 2 * its standard error.

Model 1 includes each variable net of age and interval.

Table 5. (continued)

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Currently Enrolled | | | | | |
| No or Parttime | | | | | |
| Fulltime | .02 | .13 | .17 | .28 | .26 |
| Employment Hours | | | | | |
| 35-44 | | | | | |
| 45+ | .28 | .04 | -.06 | -.01 | -.07 |
| 1-34 | -.10 | -.16 | -.26 | -.26 | -.25 |
| 0 | -.67* | -.58* | -.63* | -.70* | -.67* |
| <i>B. Marriage Market Behavior</i> | | | | | |
| Sex | | | | | |
| Never | | | | | |
| 0 Last Month | | | | | |
| 1+ | .17 | | .67* | .77* | .84* |
| | .38 | | .54# | .70* | .81* |
| Number of Persons Dated Last Month | | | | | |
| 0 | | | | | |
| 1-2 | .59* | | -.02 | .01 | .05 |
| 3+ | .39# | | -.28 | -.26 | -.27 |
| Has "Steady" | | | | | |
| No | | | | | |
| Yes | .66* | | .87* | .89* | .89* |
| <i>C. Religion and Family Attitudes</i> | | | | | |
| Religious Affiliation | | | | | |
| Catholic | | | | | |
| Baptist | -.58* | | | -.04 | -.01 |
| Other Protestant | .20 | | | .35# | .40# |
| Other | -.09 | | | .20 | .23 |
| None | -.75* | | | -.40 | -.31 |
| Church Attendance | | | | | |
| None | | | | | |
| LT Monthly | .39* | | | .29 | .20 |
| Monthly | -.19 | | | -.11 | -.21 |
| Weekly | .37# | | | .51* | .37 |

Table 5. (continued)

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--|-------|---|---|------|-------|
| Fundamentalist | | | | | |
| Not | | | | | |
| Partial agree | .02 | | | .21 | .18 |
| Agree | -.12 | | | .30 | .29 |
| Traditional Family Attitudes | | | | | |
| 1 Least Traditional | | | | | |
| 2 | .18 | | | .14 | .11 |
| 3 | .05 | | | .16 | .03 |
| 4 Most Traditional | -.01 | | | -.02 | -.27 |
| <i>D. Attitudes Toward Marriage, Cohabitation, and Unmarried Childbearing</i> | | | | | |
| Preference for Marriage | | | | | |
| 1 Least | | | | | |
| 2 | .48* | | | | .30 |
| 3 | .52* | | | | .28 |
| 4 Most | 1.06* | | | | .66* |
| How Life Different if Married | | | | | |
| 1 Worse | | | | | |
| 2 | .32 | | | | .02 |
| 3 | .49* | | | | .30 |
| 4 Better | .40* | | | | .23 |
| Would Like to Cohabit | | | | | |
| Agree | | | | | |
| No opinion | -.18 | | | | -.35# |
| Disagree | .18 | | | | -.03 |
| Reasons for Cohabitation | | | | | |
| 1 Few Important | | | | | |
| 2 | -.14 | | | | .08 |
| 3 | -.44* | | | | -.15 |
| 4 Many Important | -.26 | | | | .26 |
| Reasons Not to Cohabit | | | | | |
| 1 Few Important | | | | | |
| 2 | .12 | | | | .03 |
| 3 | -.14 | | | | -.28 |
| 4 Many Important | .07 | | | | -.21 |

Table 5. (continued)

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|-------|---|---|---|-------|
| Disapproval of Cohabitation | | | | | |
| 1 Low Disapproval | | | | | |
| 2 | .48* | | | | .78* |
| 3 High Disapproval | .45* | | | | .78* |
| Disapproval of Nonmarital Birth for Self | | | | | |
| 1 Low | | | | | |
| 2 | -.39# | | | | -.70* |
| 3 | .28 | | | | .00 |
| 4 High | .58* | | | | .13 |
| CESD Depression Scale | | | | | |
| 1 Lowest Quartile | | | | | ## |
| 2 | -.15 | | | | |
| 3 | .19 | | | | |
| 4 Highest Quartile | -.06 | | | | |
| Interval (6mos) | | | | | |
| 5.2 Yr. | | | | | |
| 5.7 Yr. | .35# | | | | .44* |
| 6.2 Yr. | .51* | | | | .69* |
| 6.8 Yr. | .53* | | | | .73 |

Estimates for depression from model including all of Model 5, but depression not included in Model 5.

Table 6. Disruption of NSFH1 Unions by NSFH2: Women in Unions of Under 10 Years Duration

| | | Logit Coefficient, Model: | | | | |
|---|----|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | | Proportion Separating | | | | |
| A. Background, Education, and Employment | | | | | | |
| Race/Ethnicity | | | | | | |
| Black | | | | | | |
| White | 33 | | | | | |
| Mexican American | 21 | -.60* | -.38# | -.44# | -.26 | -.26 |
| | 26 | -.28 | -.13 | -.12 | .04 | .04 |
| Age | | | | | | |
| 19-24 | 38 | | | | | |
| 25-29 | 29 | -.64* | -.61* | -.56* | -.54* | -.52* |
| 30-34 | 15 | -.85* | -1.03* | -1.06* | -1.06* | -1.05* |
| 35-39 | 18 | -.63* | -.95 | -.91* | -.90* | -.83* |
| 40+ | 17 | -.82* | -1.17* | -1.11* | -1.21* | -1.13* |
| Parental Fam at Age 15 | | | | | | |
| Both parents | 19 | | | | | |
| Stepparent | 28 | .39* | .19 | .19 | .02 | .02 |
| One parent | 36 | .78* | .51* | .47* | .49* | .46* |
| Parental Fam Welfare | | | | | | |
| No | 21 | | | | | |
| Yes | 35 | .54* | .19 | .23 | .22 | .23 |
| Duration of Union | | | | | | |
| 0-4 yrs | 27 | | | | | |
| 5-9 yrs | 17 | -.19* | .17 | .23 | .22 | .09 |
| Cohabitation | | | | | | |
| Never | 18 | | | | | |
| Before Mar | 23 | .39* | .39* | .28# | .16 | .16 |
| Current | 46 | 1.37* | 1.21* | 1.05 | .88* | .86* |
| Married Before | | | | | | |
| No | 22 | | | | | |
| Yes | 23 | .58 | .63* | .39# | .44* | .40* |
| Age of Youngest Child | | | | | | |
| None | 26 | | | | | |
| 0-4 | 20 | -.13 | .03 | -.03 | -.15 | -.13 |
| 5+ | 22 | .12 | -.24 | -.26 | -.37 | -.34 |

Logit coefficient is 1.5-1.9 * its standard error.

* Logit coefficient is ≥ 2 * its standard error.

Model 1 includes each variable net of age and interval.

Table 6. (continued)

| | | Logit Coefficient, Model: | | | | |
|---|----|---------------------------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | | Proportion Separating | | | | |
| Education | | | | | | |
| <12 years | 37 | | | | | |
| 12 years | 23 | -.56* | -.36# | -.37# | -.32 | -.33 |
| Some college | 21 | -.72* | -.60* | -.64* | -.59* | -.59* |
| College grad | 14 | -.87* | -.50* | -.53# | -.40 | -.39 |
| Current Enrollment | | | | | | |
| None or Part-time | 22 | | | | | |
| Full-time | 40 | .45# | .57# | .53# | .44 | .48 |
| Wife's Employment Hours | | | | | | |
| 35-44 hrs | 23 | | | | | |
| 45+ hrs | 28 | .13 | .30 | .27 | .12 | .14 |
| 1-34 hrs | 18 | -.35# | -.25 | -.22 | -.20 | -.21 |
| 0 | 22 | -.25* | -.37# | -.35 | -.44#* | -.49* |
| Work Schedule Varies | | | | | | |
| No | 22 | | | | | |
| Yes | 35 | .66* | .76* | .78* | .61* | .54* |
| Husband's Emp. Hours | | | | | | |
| 35-44 hrs | 20 | | | | | |
| 45+ hrs | 22 | .00 | -.02 | -.00 | .09 | .02 |
| 1-34 hrs | 33 | .57# | .46 | .50# | .38 | .43 |
| 0 | 33 | .71* | .68* | .73* | .67* | .71* |
| Household Income (\$1000's) | | | | | | |
| <2.5 | 29 | | | | | |
| 2.25-7.9 | 28 | .08 | .36# | .40# | .39# | .40# |
| 8-15.9 | 18 | -0.44* | -.05 | -.03 | -.03 | -.04 |
| 16+ | 14 | -.48* | .02 | -.01 | .01 | .01 |
| Husband's Share of Household Tasks | | | | | | |
| Q1 | 16 | | | | | |
| Q2 | 18 | -.29 | .26 | .31 | .31 | .35 |
| Q3 | 22 | .02 | .72* | .72* | .79* | .82* |
| Q4 | 27 | -.13 | .81* | .63* | .71* | .74* |
| Husband's Share of Couple Income | | | | | | |
| Q1 | 33 | | | | | |
| Q2 | 18 | -.81* | -.58* | -.56* | -.46* | -.46* |
| Q3 | 18 | -.85* | -.62* | -.62* | -.56* | -.55* |
| Q4 | 24 | -.57* | -.26 | -.27 | -.18 | -.14 |

Table 6. (continued)

| | | Logit Coefficient, Model: | | | | | |
|--|----|---------------------------|---|-------|------|-------|---|
| | | Proportion Separating | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| B. Religion and Family Attitudes | | | | | | | |
| Religious Affiliation | | | | | | | |
| Catholic | | | | | | | |
| Baptist | 21 | | | | | | |
| Other Prot. | 23 | .18 | | -.06 | .04 | .04 | |
| Other | 22 | .14 | | .20 | .24 | .26 | |
| None | 19 | -.04 | | .14 | .16 | .17 | |
| | 30 | .45* | | .26 | .36 | .36 | |
| Church Attendance | | | | | | | |
| None | 26 | | | | | | |
| Less than monthly | 26 | .01 | | | .23 | .22 | |
| Monthly | 25 | .01 | | .13 | .44# | .44# | |
| Weekly | 15 | -.60* | | .30 | .11 | .11 | |
| Fundamentalist | | | | | | | |
| Not | 24 | | | | | | |
| Partially Agree | 25 | .10 | | .17 | .08 | .07 | |
| Agree | 13 | -.60* | | -.39# | -.35 | -.35 | |
| Traditional Family Attitudes | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 31 | | | | | | |
| 2 | 23 | -.29# | | -.31# | -.12 | -.09 | |
| 3 | 20 | -.44* | | -.37# | -.29 | -.28 | |
| 4 | 15 | -.79* | | -.33 | -.33 | -.32 | |
| E. Relationship Variables | | | | | | | |
| Relationship Unfair to Respondent | | | | | | | |
| No | 20 | | | | | | |
| Yes | 26 | .36* | | | -.14 | -.17 | |
| Time Spent Together | | | | | | | |
| 1 Highest | 30 | | | | | | |
| 2 | 26 | -.22 | | | -.21 | -.22 | |
| 3 | 23 | -.46* | | | -.17 | -.18 | |
| 4 Lowest | 19 | -.70* | | | -.39 | -.38# | |
| How Life Different If Separated | | | | | | | |
| 1 Worse | 13 | | | | | | |
| 2 | 15 | .12 | | | -.21 | -.21 | |
| 3 | 24 | .68* | | | .12 | .11 | |
| 4 Better | 40 | 1.38* | | | .29 | .27 | |

Table 6. (continued)

| | | Logit Coefficient, Model: | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|--------|---|---|------|------|
| | | Proportion Separating | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Global Marital/Cohab Happiness | | 38 | | | | | |
| 1 Low | | 32 | -.45* | | | .01 | .02 |
| 2 | | 20 | -1.04* | | | -.32 | -.32 |
| 3 | | 16 | -1.38* | | | -.26 | -.22 |
| 4 High | | | | | | | |
| Frequency Disagree | | | | | | | |
| 1 Low | | 15 | | | | | |
| 2 | | 17 | .09 | | | .02 | .02 |
| 3 | | 22 | .47* | | | .25 | .22 |
| 4 High | | 29 | .63* | | | -.10 | -.15 |
| Frequency Argue/Fight | | | | | | | |
| 1 Low | | 17 | | | | | |
| 2 | | 17 | .04 | | | .02 | -.07 |
| 3 | | 27 | .52* | | | .24 | .24 |
| 4 High | | 39 | .96* | | | -.10 | .25 |
| Trouble in Marriage | | | | | | | |
| No | | 16 | | | | | |
| During Year | | 35 | .86* | | | .28 | .25 |
| Now | | 49 | 1.59* | | | .32 | .31 |
| Likelihood Will Separate | | | | | | | |
| 1 Low | | 15 | | | | | |
| 2 | | 28 | .74* | | | .44* | .42* |
| 3 | | 52 | 1.76* | | | .90* | .91* |
| CESD Depression Scale | | | | | | | |
| 1 Lowest Quartile | | 13 | | | | | |
| 2 | | 21 | .59* | | | | .47* |
| 3 | | 28 | .78* | | | | .52* |
| 4 Highest Quartile | | 33 | 1.06* | | | | .37# |
| Interval T1T2 | | | | | | | |
| 5.2 Yr. | | 16 | | | | | |
| 5.7 Yr. | | 19 | .28# | | | .26 | .27 |
| 6.2 Yr. | | 25 | .62* | | | .44# | .47* |
| 6.8 Yr. | | 33 | 1.00* | | | .78* | .78* |

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