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Marriage and Cohabitation in the United States: A Statistical Portrait Based on Cycle 6 (2002) of the National Survey of Family Growth



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Health Statistics

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Marriage and Cohabitation in the United States: A Statistical Portrait Based on Cycle 6 (2002) of the National Survey of Family Growth

Data From the National Survey of
Family Growth

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Health Statistics

Hyattsville, Maryland
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Abstract

Objective

This report provides an overview of marital and cohabiting relationships in the United States among men and women aged 15–44 in 2002, by a variety of characteristics. National estimates are provided that highlight formal and informal marital status, previous experience with marriage and cohabitation, the sequencing of marriage and cohabitation, and the stability of cohabitations and marriages.

Methods

The analyses presented in this report are based on a nationally representative sample of 12,571 men and women aged 15–44 living in households in the United States in 2002, based on the National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 6.

Results

Over 40% of men and women aged 15–44 were currently married at the date of interview, compared with about 9% who were currently cohabiting. Men and women were, however, likely to cohabit prior to becoming married. Marriages were longer lasting than cohabiting unions; about 78% of marriages lasted 5 years or more, compared with less than 30% of cohabitations. Cohabitations were shorter-lived than marriages in part because about half of cohabitations transitioned to marriage within 3 years. Variations—often large variations—in marital and cohabiting relationships and durations were found by race and Hispanic origin, education, family background, and other factors.

Keywords: marriage • cohabitation • divorce • demographics

Marriage and Cohabitation in the United States: A Statistical Portrait Based on Cycle 6 (2002) of the National Survey of Family Growth

by Paula Y. Goodwin, Ph.D., William D. Mosher, Ph.D., and Anjani Chandra, Ph.D., Division of Vital Statistics

Overview and Highlights

This report describes the marital and cohabiting relationships of men and women aged 15–44, based on data from Cycle 6 of the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) conducted in 2002. Included are tables and charts describing several aspects of marriage and cohabitation for men and women: current marital and cohabiting status, previous marriage and cohabitation experience, the sequencing of cohabitation and marriage, and the characteristics of partners of married and cohabiting persons. Selected tables address the probability that a first marriage or first cohabitation will remain intact for specified durations and the probability that a first cohabitation will transition to marriage.

A number of background characteristics are used here to examine marital and cohabiting relationships, including educational attainment and race and Hispanic origin. For the first time in NSFG, a sample of male respondents was included in Cycle 6. As a result, separate tables are shown for men and women. Several specific questions are addressed for persons aged 15–44:

- What are the current and past marital and cohabiting statuses of men and women?

- What are the patterns of cohabitation and marriage?
- How are selected background characteristics of men and women associated with the outcomes of their first marriages and cohabitations?
- What are the characteristics of married and cohabiting persons' partners?
- How long do first marriages and first cohabitations last?

What Are the Current and Past Marital and Cohabiting Statuses of Men and Women?

About 46% of women aged 15–44 in 2002 were currently married, and 9% were cohabiting (defined in this report as a man and woman living together in a sexual relationship without being married) (Table 1). Among men, 42% were married and 9% were cohabiting (Table 2). The percentages currently married were much higher among non-Hispanic white than non-Hispanic black men and women (Figure 1). Percentages for Hispanic men and women fell between those for white and black men and women. The proportion currently married was greater for men and women who had a bachelor's degree or higher than for those with no high school diploma or General Educational Development high school

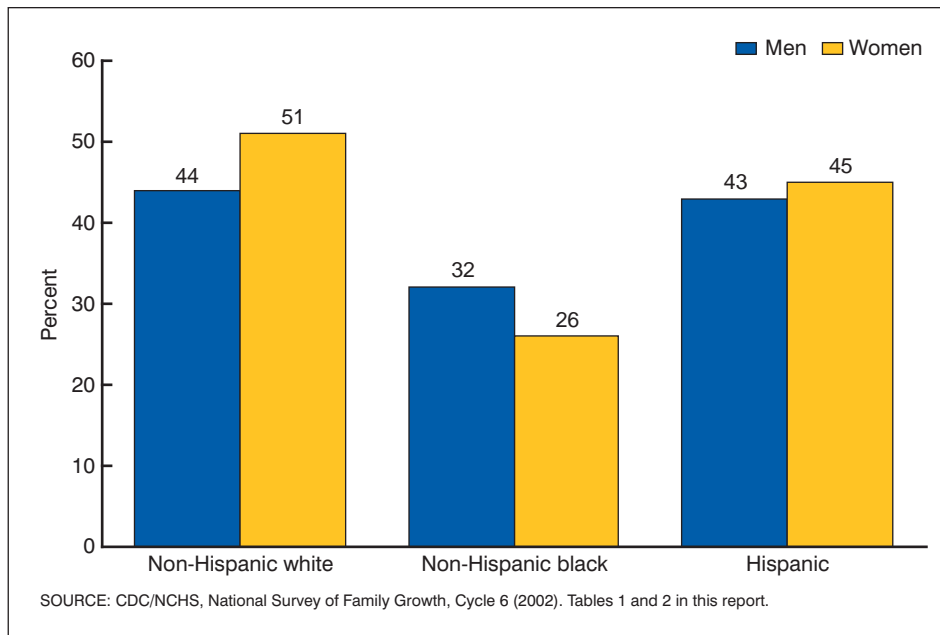


Figure 1. Percentages currently married among men and women aged 15–44, by race and Hispanic origin: United States, 2002

equivalency diploma (GED) (Figure 2). The proportion currently cohabiting was highest among those with no high school diploma or GED and lowest for those with a bachelor’s degree or higher (Figure 3). Other characteristics, such as family background, were also associated with current marital status (Figures 4 and 5). Among men and women aged 25–44, most had been married only once. The proportion of men and women who had been married two or more times, however, reached 27% for women and 26% for men at ages 40–44 (Figure 6). Non-Hispanic black women were much less likely to have ever married than non-Hispanic white or Hispanic women but were about as likely to have cohabited (Figure 7). Non-Hispanic black men were also less likely than non-Hispanic white or Hispanic men to have married and were about as likely to have cohabited as others (Figure 8). Women aged 22–44 with no high school diploma or GED were more likely (28%) to have cohabited two or more times than women in the same age group with a bachelor’s degree or higher (11%) (Figure 9).

What Are the Patterns of Cohabitation and Marriage?

Among both men and women aged 15–44 who had ever cohabited and/or married, the largest proportion cohabited before their first marriage. Approximately 28% of men and

women cohabited before their first marriage, whereas 23% of women and 18% of men married without ever cohabiting. About 15% of men and women had only cohabited (without ever marrying), and less than 7% of men and women first cohabited after their first marriages ended (Tables 13 and 14).

How Are Selected Background Characteristics of Men and Women Associated With the Outcomes of Their First Marriages and Cohabitations?

Certain background characteristics of men and women were closely associated with patterns of cohabitation and marriage. For example, the proportion of women who had married but did not cohabit before their first marriage was higher for women who lived with both parents at age 14 (26%) than for other women (12%) (Figure 10). Differences for men were smaller.

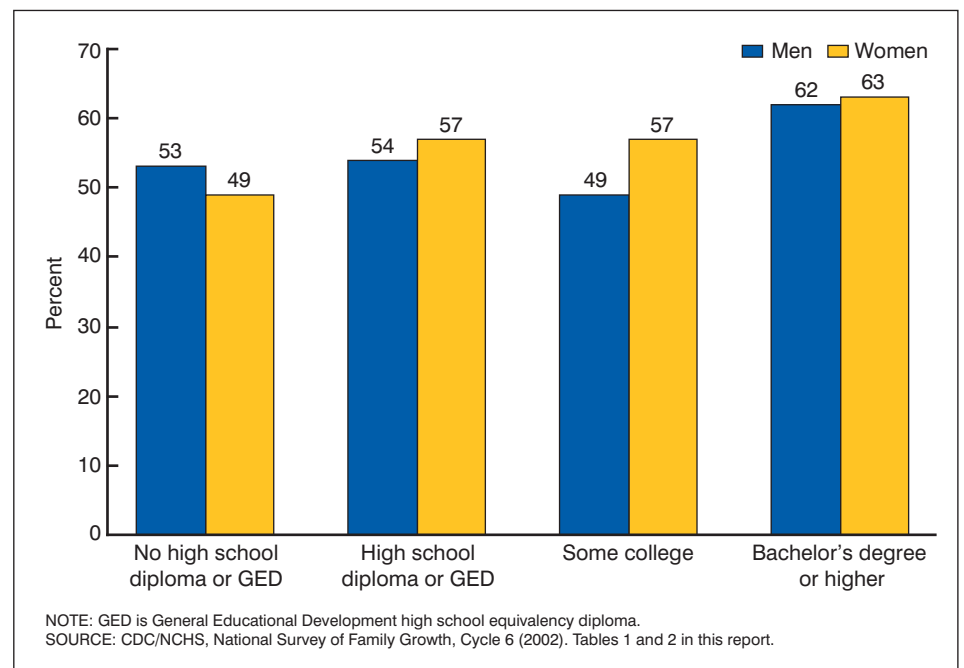


Figure 2. Percentages currently married among men and women aged 22–44, by educational attainment: United States, 2002

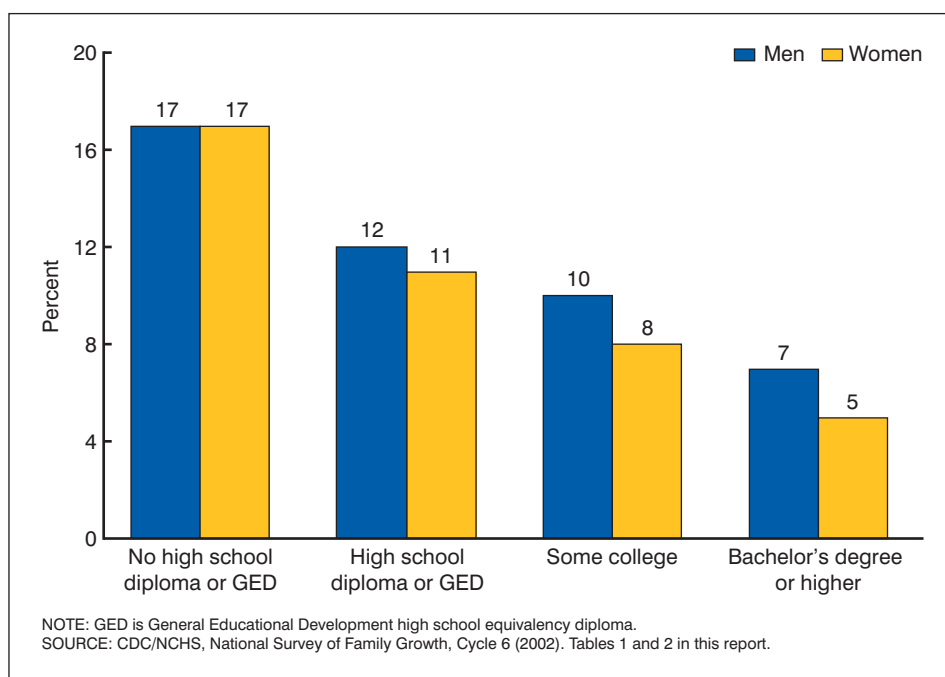


Figure 3. Percentages currently cohabiting among men and women aged 22–44, by educational attainment: United States, 2002

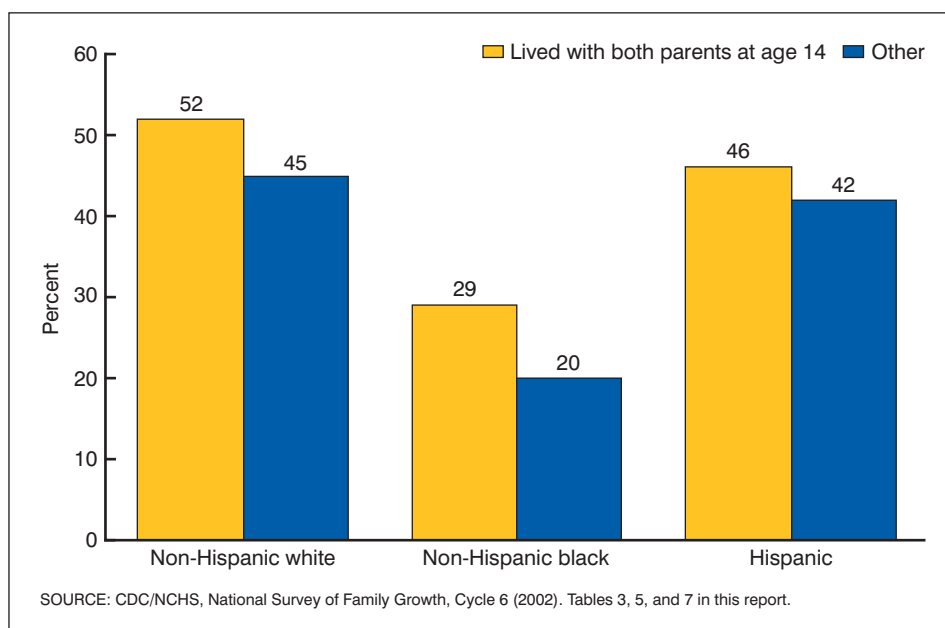


Figure 4. Percentages currently married among women aged 15–44, by parental living arrangements at age 14 and by race and Hispanic origin: United States, 2002

What Are the Characteristics of Married and Cohabiting Persons' Partners?

About 8% of currently married women's husbands were not employed at the date of interview in 2002, while 15% of currently cohabiting women's male partners were not employed

(Figure 11). Cohabiting men and women were more likely than married men and women to report that their partners were previously married and that their partners had children before the current relationship (Figures 11 and 12).

How Long Do First Marriages and First Cohabitations Last?

Data from NSFG Cycle 6 show that approximately two-thirds of first marriages lasted 10 years or more, whereas the remaining one-third ended in divorce or separation before reaching the 10th anniversary (Figure 13). Both the 1995 and 2002 surveys showed that the marriages of non-Hispanic black women were less likely to last 10 years than those of white and Hispanic women (Figure 14). The data for men show that the probability that a first marriage will last 10 years or more is higher among Hispanic men (75%) than among non-Hispanic white (64%) or non-Hispanic black (51%) men (Table 17).

In contrast to marriages, only about a quarter of men's and one-third of women's first cohabitations were estimated to last 3 years without either disrupting or transitioning to marriage (Tables 18 and 19). More than half of first cohabitations were expected to transition to marriage within 3 years (Tables 20 and 21). The first cohabitations of men and women with no high school diploma or GED were the most likely to remain intact for at least 3 years (Figure 17), whereas the first cohabitations of men and women with a bachelor's degree or higher were more likely to transition to marriage within 3 years (Figure 18). Non-Hispanic white men and women were more likely than their Hispanic and non-Hispanic black counterparts to have their first cohabitations transition to marriage within 3 or 5 years (Figures 19 and 20).

Introduction

This report provides a statistical portrait of the marital and cohabiting behaviors of persons between the ages of 15 and 44 years in 2002 in the United States, building on earlier analyses using data from the 1995 and 2002 National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) (1–5). Specifically, the report focuses on the following:

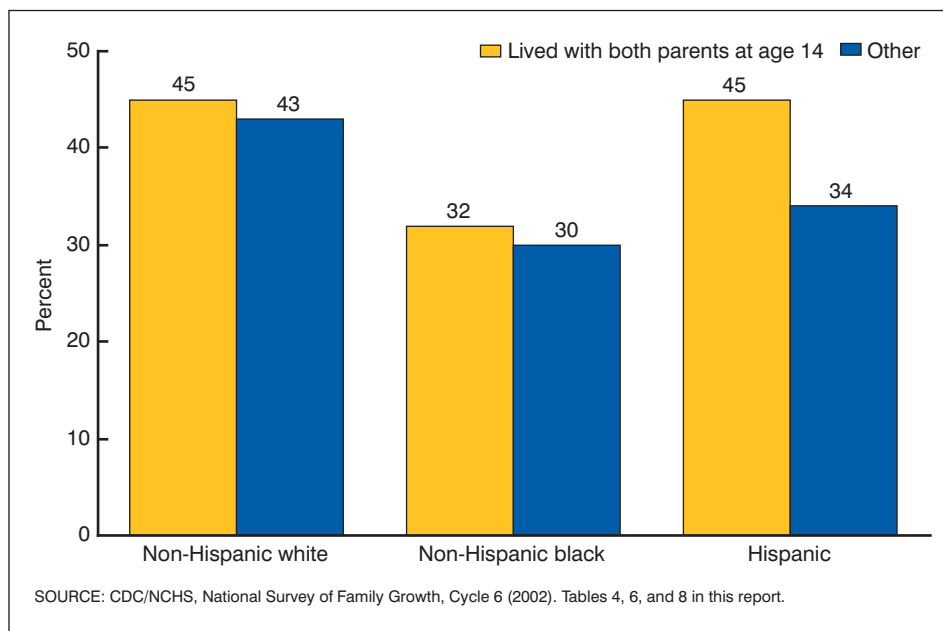


Figure 5. Percentages currently married among men aged 15–44, by parental living arrangements at age 14 and by race and Hispanic origin: United States, 2002

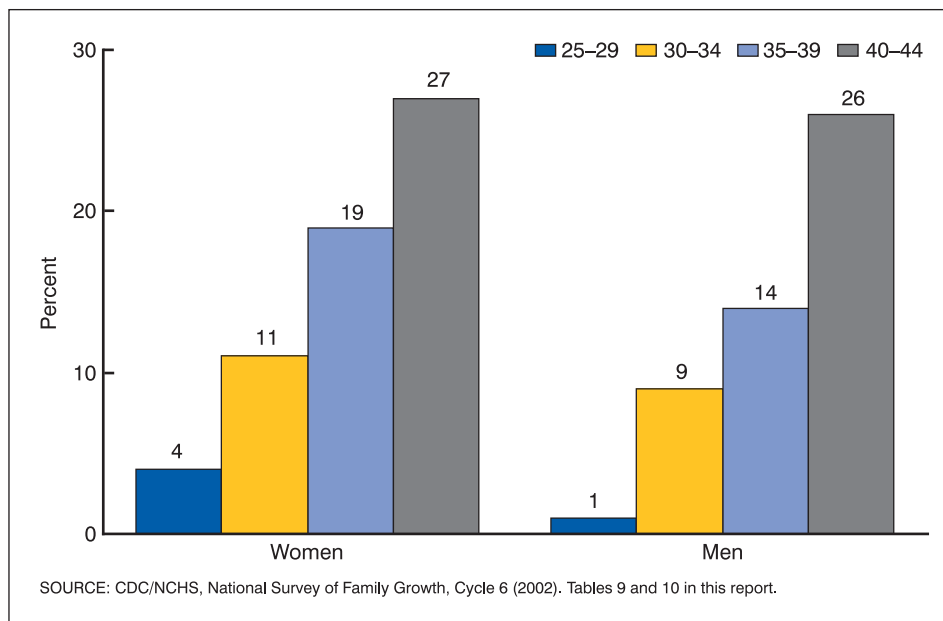


Figure 6. Percentages of women and men aged 25–44 who have been married two or more times, by current age: United States, 2002

- The current marital and cohabiting status of men and women.
- Their past experience with cohabitation and marriage.
- The sequencing and timing of marriage and cohabitation.
- The characteristics of marital and cohabiting partners.
- The stability and duration of marriages and cohabitations.

Union formation, by marriage or cohabitation, is one of the primary events in adulthood. The occurrence and sequencing of marriage and cohabitation can have implications for later life events and outcomes, such as nonmarital childbearing and child and adult health and well-being. Research findings (6–8) consistently document associations between formal marital status and health and well-being. Married persons have

generally better mental and physical health outcomes compared with unmarried persons (9). Married persons also live longer (10), have higher rates of health insurance coverage (11), and lower prevalence of cardiovascular disease (12) than unmarried persons. Research also indicates that marriage is positively associated with the health and well-being of children. Children born to unmarried mothers are at greater risk than children born to married mothers for poverty, teen childbearing, poor school achievement, and marital disruption in adulthood (6,7,13–16).

In addition to marriage, this report provides detailed information on cohabitation. Over the past several decades, there have been large increases in the number of persons who have ever cohabited, that is, lived together with a sexual partner of the opposite sex. From 1987 to 2002, the percentages of women between ages 35 and 39 who had ever cohabited doubled, from 30% to 61% (3,17). Cohabitation is increasingly becoming the first co-residential union formed among young adults. Over half of marriages from 1990 to 1994 among women aged 19–44 began as a cohabitation (17). As a result of the growing prevalence of cohabitation, the number of children born to unmarried cohabiting parents has also increased (17,18). By 2001, the majority of nonmarital births (52%) occurred within cohabiting unions, compared with the 33% of nonmarital births between 1980 and 1984 that occurred within cohabiting unions (19). Young children are also more likely than in the past to live in a cohabiting household. In 2002, 2.9 million children under age 15 lived with an unmarried parent and his or her unmarried partner (20). Estimates suggest that about two-fifths of all children will spend some time in a cohabiting household before age 16 years (17).

Despite the growing prevalence of cohabitation, little is known about the health and well-being outcomes related to cohabitation compared with marriage. One reason for this dearth of knowledge is that in many analyses cohabitators are included with other unmarried persons, which includes the never married, divorced, widowed, and separated.

Cohabitations are also generally shorter-lived unions, often ending in marriage or disruption (4,17), so the long-term effects of cohabitation are difficult to document. Yet studies have emerged that suggest that cohabitators do not show the same level of health benefits as married persons but may show greater health benefits than divorced, separated, widowed, and never-married persons (21). Cohabitators also report lower levels of relationship quality (22) and lower household incomes than married couples (23).

Some data also suggest that cohabitation may have a negative effect on later marriage and on children's outcomes (6,16). Previous studies (4,24) have found that persons who cohabit prior to marriage are more likely to have their marriages dissolve than those who did not cohabit premaritally. Studies comparing child academic outcomes and behaviors in cohabiting and married parent households conclude that children living in families where the mother is cohabiting do not fare as well as those where the mother is married (25–27). Poorer child outcomes in cohabiting unions compared with marital unions have been linked to lower household incomes and greater instability in cohabiting unions (26,28).

In This Report

This report provides national estimates of the marital and cohabiting status of men and women aged 15–44 in 2002 in the United States and the characteristics associated with these unions. Separate estimates are provided for men and women and also for different groups classified by race and Hispanic origin and by other demographic characteristics. These factors are reviewed briefly to explain why they are included in this report.

Numerous studies (e.g., references 1, 3, 29, and 30) have documented divergent marriage behaviors among racial and ethnic groups. Racial and ethnic differences are also found in the probabilities of marital dissolution (4). Some research suggests that the factors affecting marriage and outcomes vary among racial and ethnic groups. For example, premarital cohabitation, age at

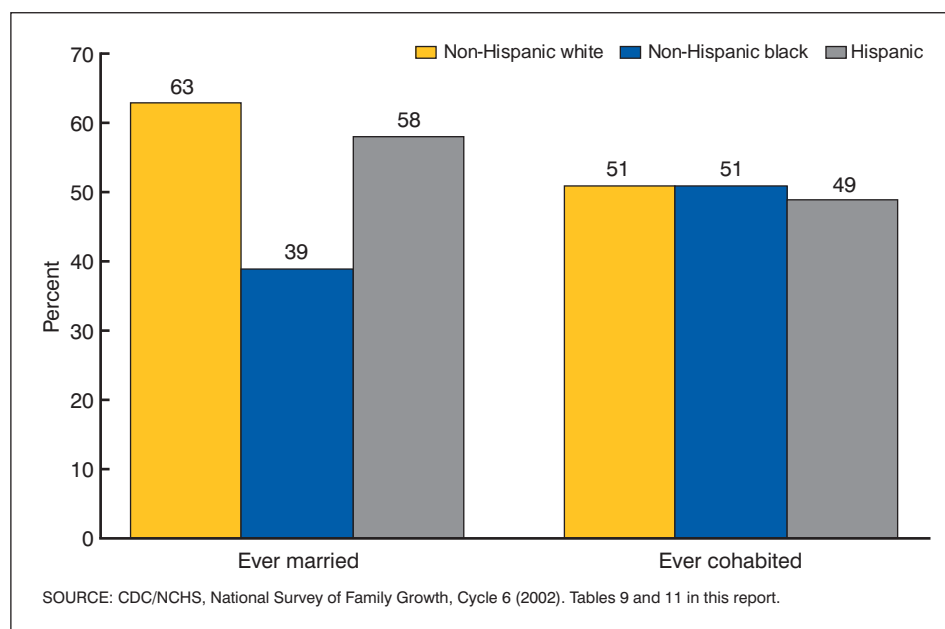


Figure 7. Percentage of women aged 15–44 who have ever married or ever cohabited, by race and Hispanic origin: United States, 2002

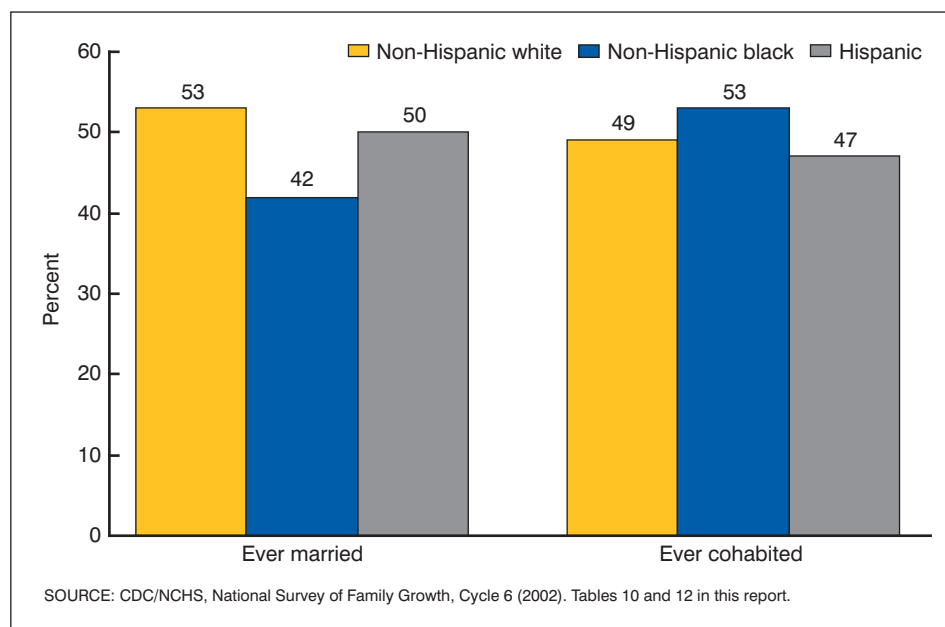


Figure 8. Percentage of men aged 15–44 who have ever married or ever cohabited, by race and Hispanic origin: United States, 2002

marriage, and premarital conception were found to have different effects on white, black, and Hispanic (i.e., Mexican American) women (31). Thus, when sample sizes permit, the current report examines marital and cohabiting behaviors within racial and ethnic groups, as well as among them.

Individual characteristics such as age, education, parity (women), children fathered (men), childhood living arrangements, prior cohabiting and

marital experiences, timing of first birth, poverty status, importance of religion, and nativity are included in analyses when appropriate because all have been shown to be related to marital and cohabitation status and history (4,5). Some characteristics of spouses and partners—such as whether the spouse was previously married or had children prior to the marriage—are also included, for the same reason (31–33).

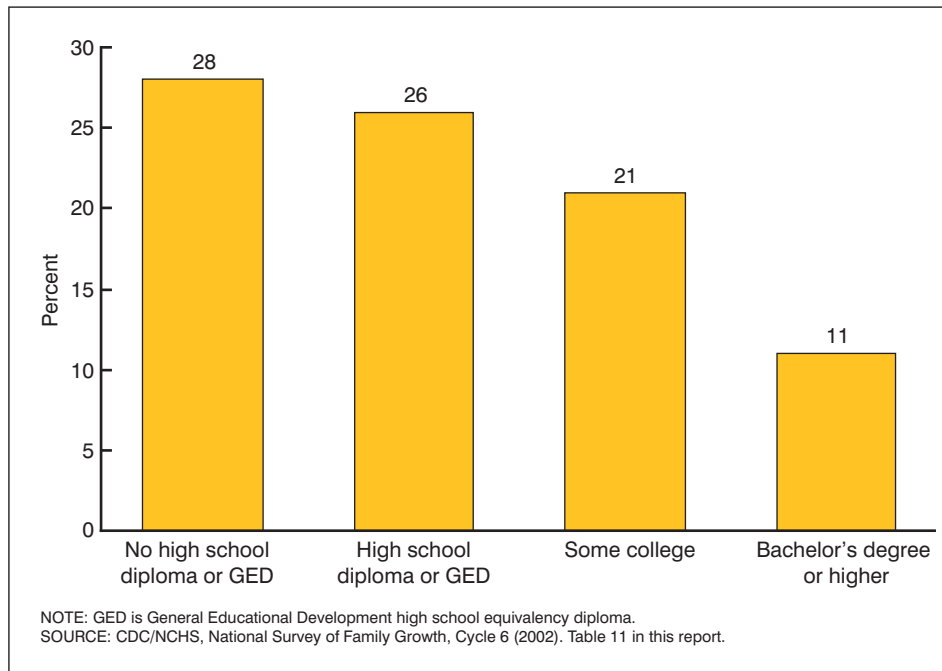


Figure 9. Percentage of women aged 22–44 who have had two or more cohabiting relationships, by her level of education: United States, 2002

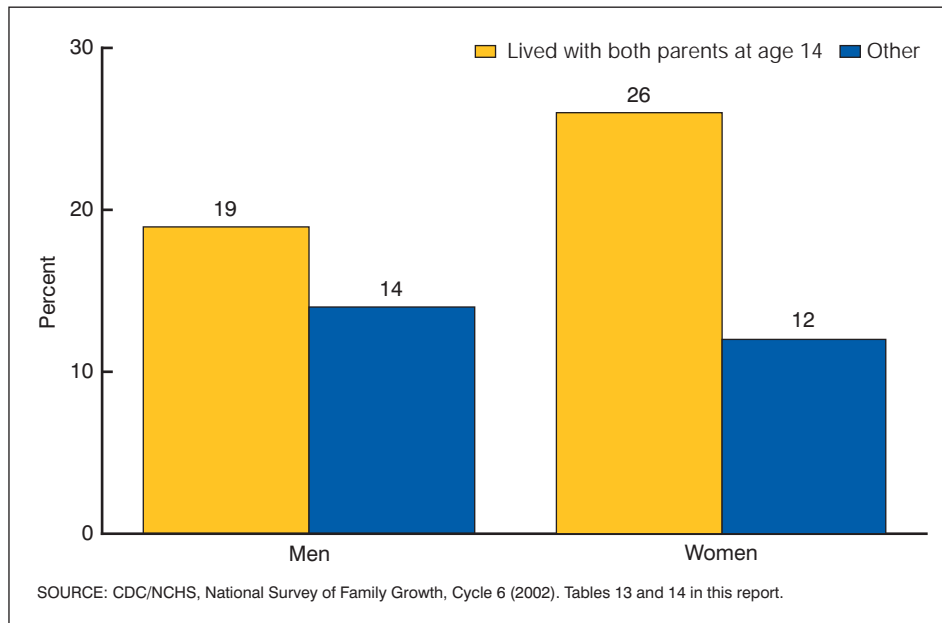


Figure 10. Percentages of men and women aged 15–44 who have ever married but not cohabited, by parental living arrangements at age 14: United States, 2002

Comparison With Previous Reports

The current report, using data from the Cycle 6 (2002) NSFG, updates and extends previous analyses on cohabitation and marriage that used data from Cycles 5 and 6 of NSFG (1–5). For the first time, the 2002 NSFG included a sample of men aged 15–44.

Thus, this report provides information on the marital and cohabiting behaviors of both men and women.

Because of the smaller sample of women in the 2002 NSFG ($N = 7,643$) compared with the 1995 survey ($N = 10,847$), separate probability analyses of marriage and cohabitation dissolution for Hispanic and non-Hispanic black women were not

possible. Furthermore, smaller sample sizes of men and women did not allow for estimates of the probabilities of unions remaining intact for up to 15 or 20 years, as could be done in the previous 1995-based report (4,5). Instead, marriage probabilities were estimated with the 2002 NSFG data for up to 10 years, and cohabitation-related probabilities were estimated for up to 5 years. In addition to probability tables, the current report includes prevalence estimates of marriage and cohabitation.

Data and Methods

Source of Data

The statistics presented in this report are from the 2002 NSFG (also known as Cycle 6). The 2002 NSFG was based on a nationally representative multistage area probability sample drawn from 121 areas across the country. The final sample consisted of 12,571 respondents (7,643 females and 4,928 males) aged 15–44. One person per household was interviewed in each selected household. Teenagers and black and Hispanic adults were sampled at higher rates than others in the Cycle 6 NSFG. The overall response rate for the survey was 79% (80% for females and 78% for males).

Data were collected by computer-assisted interviewing. The majority of questions were administered by a female interviewer, using a technique called computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI), in which the interviewer reads questions from a computer screen and enters the respondent's answers. More sensitive questions were collected using audio computer-assisted self-interviewing (ACASI)—a private mode of data collection in which respondents hear the questions and response choices through headphones or read them on the screen. Respondents are able to enter responses without the interviewer or anyone else knowing the response. Unless noted, data presented in this report come from the CAPI or interviewer-administered portion of the survey.

In the 2002 NSFG, interviews averaged 85 minutes in length for females and 60 minutes for males (including about 20 minutes for ACASI). Respondents were offered \$40 as a “token of appreciation” for their participation. For unmarried teens aged 15–17, both parental consent and signed respondent assent were obtained. Further details regarding the methods and procedures of NSFG are provided in the Technical Notes ([Appendix I](#)) and in the report, “Plan and Operation of Cycle 6 of the National Survey of Family Growth” (34).

Public-use files based on the Cycle 6 NSFG are available at no charge on CD-ROM, upon request to NSFG staff (nsfg@cdc.gov or 301-458-4222). Data and documentation files are also viewable and downloadable on the NSFG webpage at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm>.

Strengths and Limitations of the Data

The NSFG data used for this report have several strengths:

- *Full marriage and cohabitation histories*—NSFG is nationally representative and includes full histories of both marriage and cohabitation (not just current marital status) for persons aged 15–44. A history is a complete count of all marriages or cohabitations that a person has experienced, along with characteristics of each marriage or cohabitation, such as the date it began and ended and its outcome.
- *Breadth of information*—NSFG collects data on a variety of characteristics with which marital and cohabiting behaviors can be compared and studied, including race and ethnicity, education, and family background.
- *Effective fieldwork procedures*—The interviews in each cycle of NSFG were conducted by female interviewers who received thorough training on the survey, so the quality of the data is generally good. The response rates are high, at 80% for women aged 15–44 and 78% for men in the same age group.

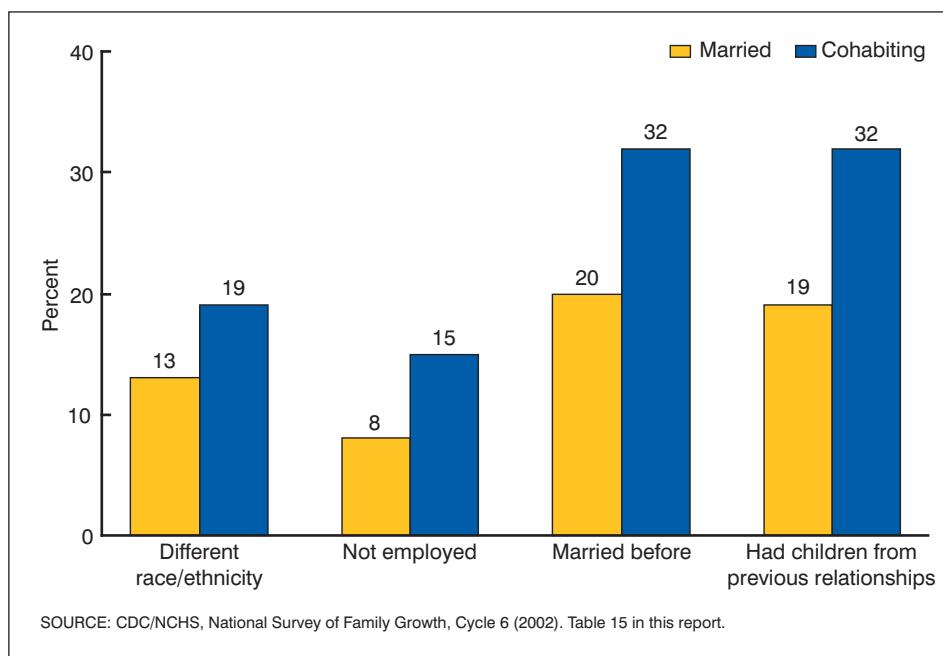


Figure 11. Percentages of currently married or cohabiting women aged 15–44, with specified spouse or partner characteristics: United States, 2002

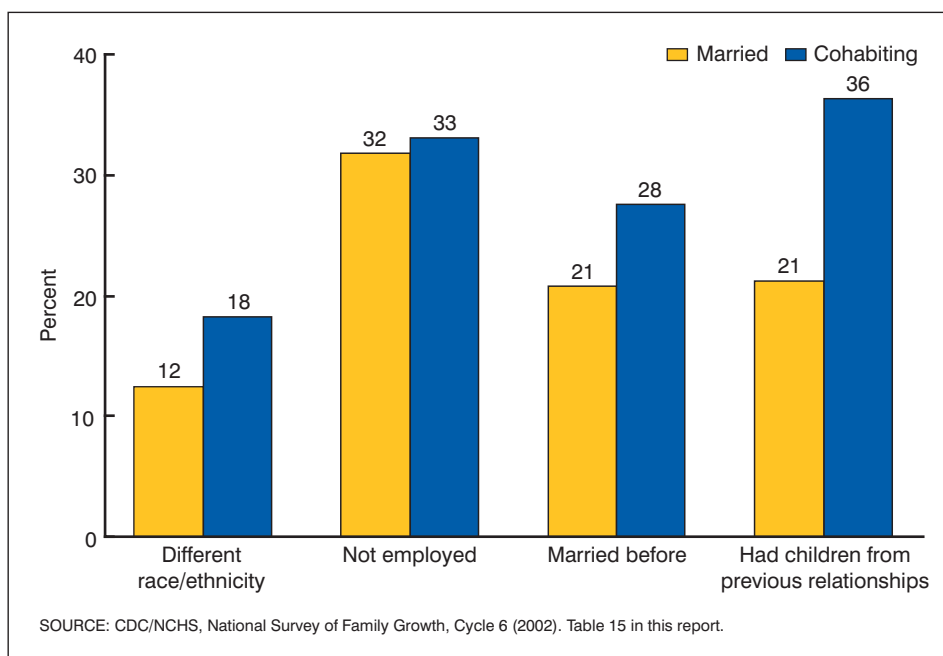


Figure 12. Percentages of currently married or cohabiting men aged 15–44, with specified spouse or partner characteristics: United States, 2002

Limitations of NSFG data include the following:

- *Descriptive findings only*—This report provides basic descriptive statistics on several issues regarding family formation. These statistics do not demonstrate causation or explain why associations exist between variables.
- *Age of respondents*—NSFG is primarily a survey about childbearing and reproductive health, so it is limited to women and men aged 15–44. Thus, we can only examine what happens up to age 44, rather than provide lifetime measures. This is particularly important for marriage dissolution

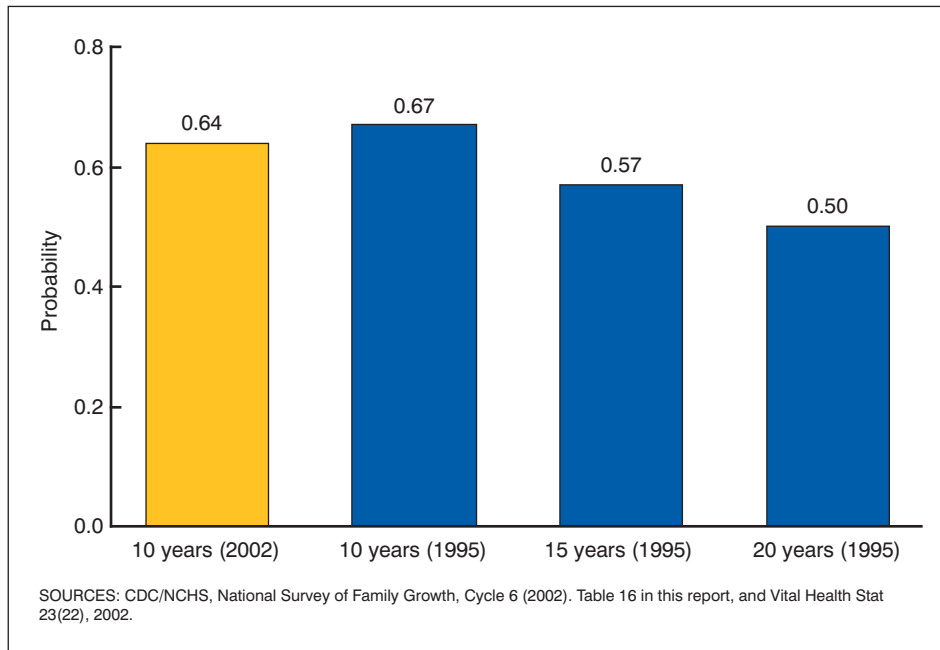


Figure 13. Probability that a woman's first marriage will remain intact for 10, 15, and 20 years: United States, 1995 and 2002

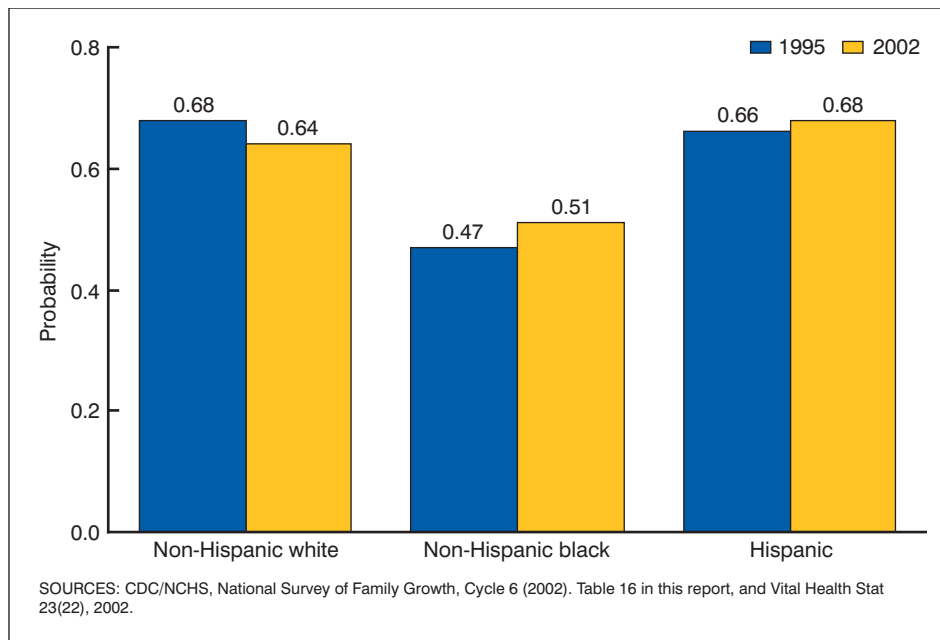


Figure 14. Probability that a woman's first marriage will remain intact for 10 years, by race and Hispanic origin: United States, 1995 and 2002

and higher-order marriages that may occur beyond age 44. The data in this report show the probability that marriages will last up to 10 years, not the probability that a marriage will last a lifetime.

- **Incorrect routing for marriage dissolution**—Due to an error in the 2002 NSFG interview specifications for females, a number of female

respondents whose marriages had ended ($n = 509$) were mistakenly skipped past questions on how and when their marriages ended. In instances where respondents were erroneously routed past these questions, the missing data were imputed. This limitation applies only to the study of the dissolution of a first marriage; it does not affect any

other measurement presented in this report. For further information, see [Appendix I](#).

National Estimates

The numbers, percentages, probabilities, and other statistics shown in this report are weighted national estimates. The weights account for different sampling rates and for nonresponse, and they are adjusted to agree with control totals provided by the U.S. Census Bureau. The 7,643 women and 4,928 men in the Cycle 6 NSFG represent the 61.6 million women and 61.1 million men aged 15–44 in the household population of the United States in 2002. Thus, on average, each woman in the survey represents about 8,000 women in the population and each man in the survey represents about 12,000 men in the population. The number each man and woman represents is called his or her *sampling weight*. Sample weights may vary considerably from this average value, depending on the respondent's age, Hispanic origin and race, the response rate for similar respondents, and other factors.

As with any sample survey, the estimates in this report are subject to sampling variability. Significance tests on NSFG data should be performed taking into account the sampling design. All differences that are described as statistically significant in this report are statistically significant at the 0.05 level. Percentages presented in the description of the results are shown rounded to the nearest whole percent. For the cross-tabulations in this report, percentages are not shown if the denominator is less than 50 cases or the numerator is less than 5 cases. Estimates based on effective sample sizes of less than 50 cases are not shown for life table analysis. When a percentage or other statistic is not shown for this reason, the table contains a footnote that indicates, "Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision." For most statistics, the numerators, denominators, and effective sample sizes are much larger. Further details on the statistical analyses used for this report are provided in [Appendix I](#).

Nonsampling errors were minimized by stringent quality control procedures that included thorough interviewer training, checking the consistency of answers during and after the interview, imputing missing data on selected variables, and adjusting the sampling weights for nonresponse and to match national totals. Estimates of sampling errors and other statistical aspects of the survey are described in more detail in a separate report (35).

This report presents statistics by several demographic characteristics associated with marriage and cohabitation, such as age, education, poverty status, and race and Hispanic origin. Education and poverty results are limited to persons aged 22–44. This age limitation allows respondents the potential to report four-year college degrees and increases the accuracy of household income reporting, which is used to compute poverty status.

Although a full or multivariate analysis of all demographic variables associated with marriage and cohabitation is beyond the scope of this report, a number of individual and spousal and partner characteristics are examined. Detailed definitions of all variables used in this report are provided in [Appendix II](#).

Life Table Analysis

The 2002 NSFG collected nearly complete retrospective histories of the cohabitation, marriage, and marriage dissolution experiences of women and men aged 15–44 (34). These histories included the beginning and ending dates of each cohabitation and marriage and the outcome of each union.

For marriages, the retrospective histories for men and women are complete and include data on premarital cohabitations, if applicable. For cohabitations with partners to whom respondents were never married, detailed information was collected for up to four cohabitations for women, but this resulted in very little truncation of the cohabitation history for women because only 20 cases out of 7,643 (0.3%) had more than four cohabitations with nonmarital partners. For men, detailed information was collected on

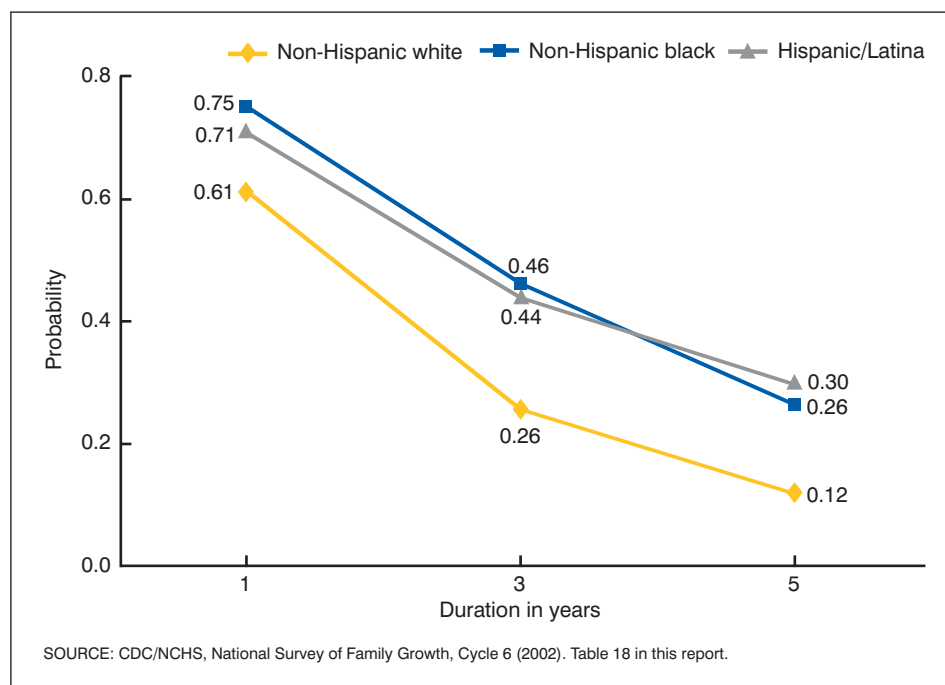


Figure 15. Probability that a woman's first cohabitation will remain intact (without marriage or disruption) for 1, 3, and 5 years, by race and Hispanic origin: United States, 2002

cohabitations with up to three nonmarital partners in the last 12 months and on the first cohabitation if outside the 12-month window.

Given these data, the probabilities shown in this report were estimated using life table or survival techniques. The life table is a tool that demographers and statisticians often use to study mortality, but it may also be applied to the study of other events and outcomes. In this report, three events are studied: first marriage disruption, first cohabitation disruption, and transition to marriage from a first cohabitation. The life table analyses take a life cycle approach to estimate the probabilities, for women and men, that

- A first marriage (occurring between ages 15 and 44) will remain intact.
- A first cohabitation (in that age group) will remain intact.
- A first cohabitation (in that age group) will transition to marriage.

In the description of the results, these probabilities are often converted to percentages or proportions, such as the percentage of first marriages remaining intact until 5 years or the proportion of first cohabitations transitioning to marriage within 3 years.

For further details on life table methodology and sample sizes for this NSFG-based analysis, see [Appendix I](#).

Results

Current Marital and Cohabiting Status

The majority of men and women aged 25–44 are currently married or cohabiting (i.e., in a sexual union with a partner of the opposite sex). Among women aged 18–19, cohabitation was more common than marriage as a union form, with 11% of these women cohabiting and 5% married. For women aged 25–44, marriage was the dominant union type, with 62% currently married and 8% currently cohabiting ([Table 1](#)). Similar patterns in current marriage and cohabitation with respect to age were found among men. Among men aged 25–44, 59% were currently married while only 10% were currently cohabiting ([Table 2](#)).

Racial and ethnic groups

The percent distribution of men and women aged 15–44 by marital and

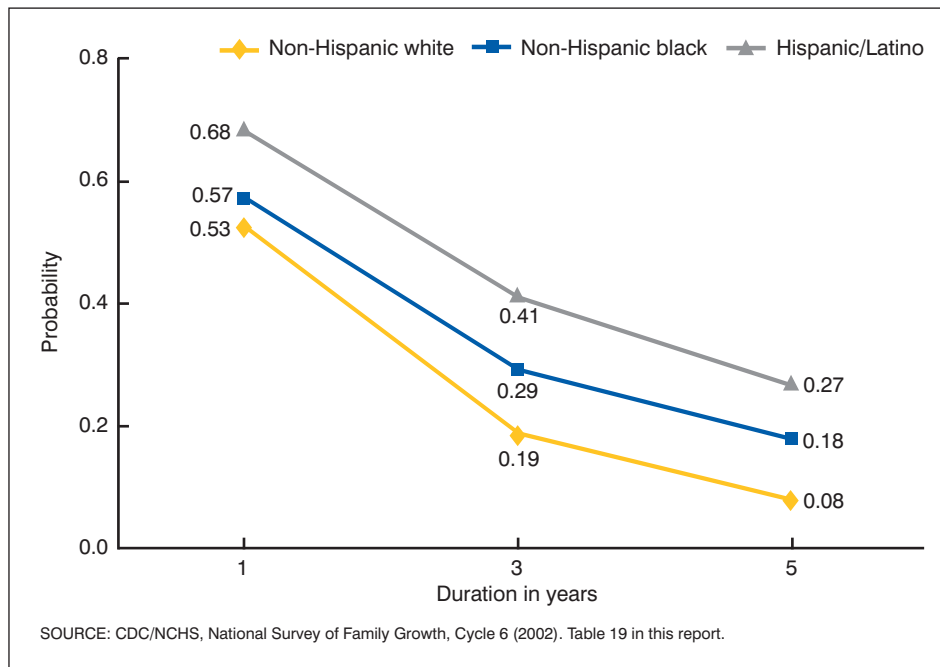


Figure 16. Probability that a man's first cohabitation will remain intact (without marriage or disruption) for 1, 3, and 5 years, by race and Hispanic origin: United States, 2002

cohabitation status differed among racial and ethnic groups (Tables 1–8). Looking at the full age range of 15–44 years, lower percentages of non-Hispanic black women were currently married (26%) than were Hispanic women (45%) and non-Hispanic white women (51%) (Table 1 and Figure 1). Among Hispanic women, 13% were currently cohabiting, compared with 10% of non-Hispanic black women and 8% of non-Hispanic white women (Table 1).

Although not as distinct as the racial and ethnic differences in current union statuses among women, similar distributions were found among men (Table 2 and Figure 1). Smaller percentages of non-Hispanic black men were currently married (32%) than non-Hispanic white (44%) and Hispanic men (43%). Hispanic men had higher percentages who were currently cohabiting (14%) than non-Hispanic white men (8%) (Table 2).

Other characteristics

Differences in marital and cohabiting status were also found by other characteristics (Tables 1–8). For example, women who did not live with both of their biological or adoptive parents at age 14 were less likely to be married at the date of interview

(36% vs. 48%) and more likely to be cohabiting (14% vs. 8%) than those who grew up with both parents (Table 1). Differences in marital and cohabiting status among men and women were also seen by education, household poverty status, importance of religion, and whether U.S. born or foreign born (Table 1). However, these differences were not always statistically significant in subgroups by race/ethnicity and gender (Tables 2–8).

Education

Tables 1 and 2 and Figure 2 show data for men and women aged 22–44 by education. Women with bachelor's degrees or higher were more likely to be currently married (63%) than those who did not have a high school diploma or GED (49%). Comparable percentages for men were 62% and 53%, respectively (Figure 2). Figure 3 shows that 17% of women aged 22–44 who did not have a high school diploma or GED were currently cohabiting, compared with 5% of women with bachelor's degrees or higher.

Family background

Whether the respondent was living with both parents at age 14 is shown in

Tables 1 and 2 and Figure 4. Women who lived with both parents at age 14 were more likely to be married at the date of interview than those who did not, regardless of race and Hispanic origin (Figure 4). Among men, the differences were not significant for white and black men but were larger and statistically significant for Hispanic men compared with non-Hispanic white or black men (Figure 5).

Importance of religion

Respondents in NSFG were asked, “Currently, how important is religion in your daily life? Would you say very important, somewhat important, or not important?” This simple measure, defined at the time of interview, is strongly associated with the percentage currently married, the percentage currently cohabiting, and the percentage never married (Tables 1–8). For example, 60% of non-Hispanic white women for whom religion was “very important” in their daily lives were currently married, compared with 36% of white women for whom religion was “not important.” Similar patterns in marital or cohabiting status by importance of religion were found for non-Hispanic men and women, black men, and Hispanic men and women. Only black women (Table 5) did not show this pattern.

As stated above, this report presents descriptive statistics, not causal models, so these data alone do not demonstrate that importance of religion causes these differences in marital patterns. But literature based on other data sources (e.g., references 2 and 36–39) suggests that religious involvement (also known as religiosity) is often associated with marriage, cohabitation, and related behaviors and attitudes, and many of religion's effects may first occur in the early decades of life.

Overall Experience With Marriage and Cohabitation

Tables 9 and 10 show the percentages of men and women aged 15–44 who had ever married and the percent distribution by their number of spouses. Tables 11 and 12 show the

percentages of men and women who had ever cohabited with an opposite-sex partner and the percent distribution by their number of cohabiting partners. About 63% of women aged 25–44 had been married once, whereas 16% had been married two or more times (Table 9). The proportion of women married two or more times increased from 4% at age 25–29 to 27% at age 40–44. The increase for men was from 1% at age 25–29 to 26% at age 40–44 (Figure 6).

Data by race and Hispanic origin (Tables 9 and 11 and Figure 7) show a striking contrast in the percentages who had ever married. The proportion of black women who had ever married (39%) was much lower than the proportion of white (63%) and Hispanic (58%) women (Figure 7). But the proportion of women who had ever cohabited was essentially equal in all three groups, at 49%–51% (Figure 7).

Among men, racial differences in the percentage of those who had ever married and who had ever cohabited were evident, but to a lesser degree than among women (Figure 8). For example, non-Hispanic black men (42%) were less likely to have ever married than non-Hispanic white men (53%) and Hispanic men (50%). Men of different racial and ethnic groups were about equally likely to have ever cohabited: 53% of non-Hispanic black men, 49% of non-Hispanic white men, and 47% of Hispanic men (Tables 11 and 12).

Differences in patterns of cohabitation were also seen by factors other than race (Tables 11 and 12). For example, women with bachelor's degrees or higher were much less likely to have had two or more cohabiting relationships (11%) than those with less education (21%–28%) (Figure 9 and Table 11). For men, those who lived with both of their parents at age 14 were much less likely (19%) to have had two or more cohabiting relationships than men who did not live with both parents at age 14 (29%) (Table 12).

The percentage who had ever cohabited also varied, for both men and women, by whether the respondent considered religion very important, somewhat important, or not important in

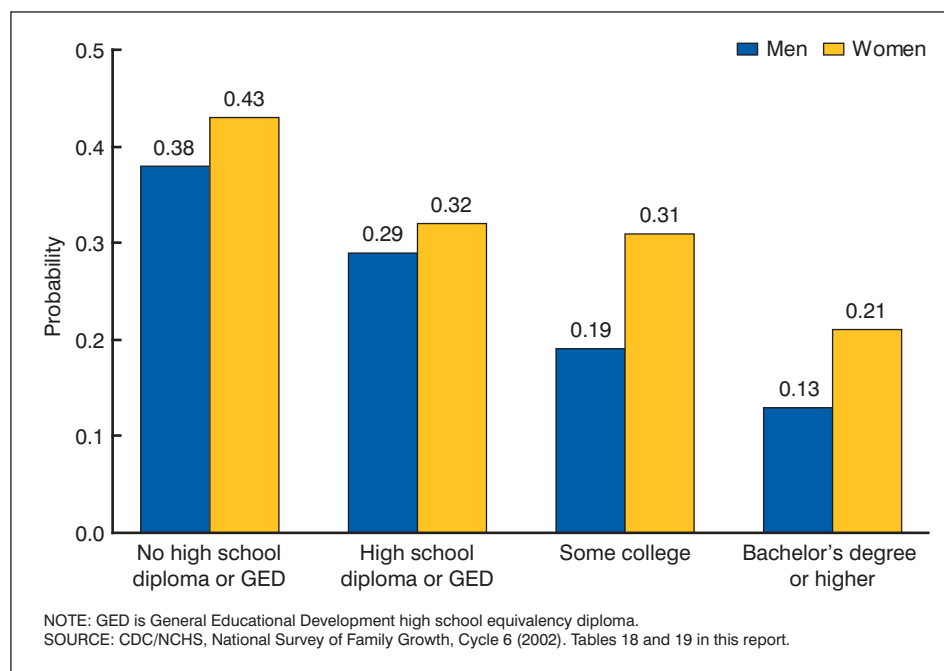


Figure 17. Probability that a first cohabitation remains intact for 3 or more years, by gender and educational attainment: United States, 2002

their daily lives. Among women who said that religion is very important, 43% had ever cohabited; in contrast, 63% of women who said that religion is not important had cohabited. Among men, the comparable percentages were 42% and 57%, respectively.

Sequencing of Cohabitation and Marriage

Tables 13 and 14 describe the sequencing of cohabitation and marriage in men and women aged 15–44 in 2002, using five categories. For example, 27% of women aged 15–44 had never married or cohabited, 15% had cohabited but never married, 23% had married but not cohabited, 28% had cohabited and then married, and 7% had married and then cohabited some time after the marriage dissolved (Table 13).

Variations by race and other characteristics are particularly strong in the percentages that had married but had never cohabited. Hispanic women (28%) and non-Hispanic white women (24%) had larger proportions of women who first married without ever cohabiting than non-Hispanic black women (12%) (Table 13). Smaller percentages of non-Hispanic black men had married only without ever cohabiting (11%) than

Hispanic men (23%) or non-Hispanic white men (18%) (Table 14). Especially among women, the proportion who married without cohabiting also differed by other characteristics: whether the respondent lived with both parents at age 14 (Figure 10), education, income, and importance of religion (Tables 13 and 14).

Spouse and Partner Characteristics

Married men and women were more likely than cohabiting men and women to share demographic characteristics with their partners, specifically age, education, and race and Hispanic origin (Table 15). Although the majority of currently married and cohabiting persons had partners with similar characteristics as themselves, a larger proportion of cohabitators than married persons had partners who were of a different race or ethnicity (for example, 19% of cohabiting women compared with 13% of married women) (Table 15 and Figure 11). Cohabiting men and women also differed from married men and women with respect to other characteristics of their partners. Cohabiting women were more likely than married women to have partners

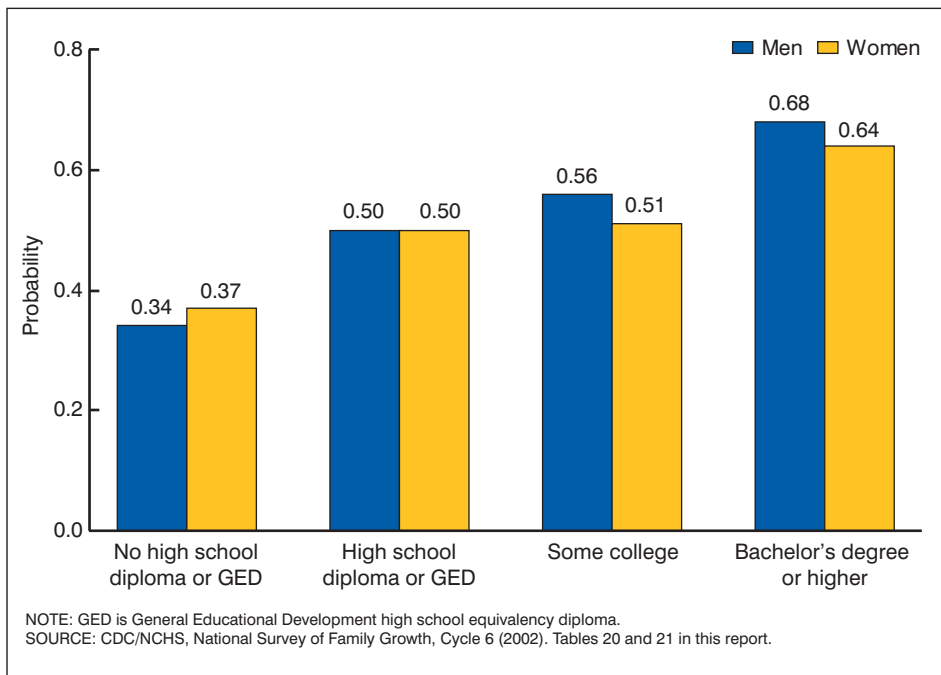


Figure 18. Probability that a first cohabitation transitions to marriage within 3 years, by gender and educational attainment: United States, 2002

who were not employed (15%), who had been married before (32%), and who had children from previous relationships (32%) (Table 15 and Figure 11). Cohabiting men and married men did not differ with regard to their partners' employment status but showed similar patterns to women with regard to their partners' being previously married or having children from prior relationships (Table 15 and Figure 12).

Duration and Outcomes of First Marriages and Cohabitations

Duration of first marriages

Tables 1–15 of this report show percentages; however, Tables 16–21 show a different statistic: life table probabilities, as described earlier (see the Data and Methods section, “Life Table Analysis,” and Appendix I, Technical Notes, for more details). Because there were adequate numbers of men and women in the NSFG Cycle 6 sample who had been married for 10 years or more, Tables 16 and 17 focus on the probability that a marriage will last 10 years. These statistics are not the probability that the marriage will last a

lifetime. A previous report using the 1995 NSFG gave estimates for women for up to 20 years of marriage (5), but the 1995 survey had 3,200 more female respondents than the 2002 sample (10,847 compared with 7,643), making it statistically feasible to provide estimates for longer durations of marriage.

The probability that the first marriages of women and men will survive to at least 10 years was 0.64 (or 64%) for women and 0.66 for men in 2002; the remainder of first marriages dissolved through divorce or separation within 10 years (Tables 16 and 17). Figure 13 shows a comparison of results for women from the 1995 NSFG and the 2002 NSFG. The proportion of marriages still intact at 10 years is quite similar in the two surveys: 64% and 67%. As indicated above, it is not possible to estimate reliably the proportion of women's first marriages that will last 15 or 20 years from the 2002 NSFG, but the larger sample sizes of the 1995 survey did allow those estimates: 57% intact at 15 years and 50% intact at 20 years (Figure 13).

Figure 14 compares the results for women of the 1995 and 2002 surveys, showing the proportion of first marriages still intact at 10 years for

non-Hispanic white, non-Hispanic black, and Hispanic women. Taking into account the sampling errors of the estimates, the results are quite similar, at least at marriage durations up to 10 years. This suggests that the results on first marriage dissolution based on the 2002 data (shown for women in Table 16) and those shown in reports based on the 1995 data (4,5) are essentially equal for durations up to 10 years. For marital durations over 10 years, the results from the 1995 NSFG must be used. Data for men are available only in the 2002 survey. The following is a brief summary of the results from the 2002 NSFG.

Consistent with results from the 1995 NSFG (4,5), individual characteristics such as race and ethnicity, age, timing of first birth, and cohabitation were related to the probability of a first marriage surviving to 10 years (Tables 16 and 17). Overall, non-Hispanic black men and women had lower chances that their first marriage would last 10 years than did non-Hispanic white or Hispanic men and women. Hispanic men had the highest probability that their first marriages would last 10 years or more (75%)—higher than any other race and ethnic group and higher than Hispanic women. The probability of non-Hispanic black men's and women's first marriages remaining intact for at least 10 years was about 50%. This compares with probabilities of 64% for white men's and women's first marriages, 68% for Hispanic women's first marriages, and 75% for Hispanic men's first marriages remaining intact for at least 10 years.

Age at marriage affected the probability of men's and women's first marriages lasting for 10 years or more. Men and women who married in the teen years (i.e., between ages 15 and 19) had a lower probability of their marriages lasting 10 years than those who married at age 20 or older. Similarly, men and women marrying for the first time between ages 20 and 25 had a lower probability of their marriages lasting 10 years or more than those who first married at age 26 or higher.

The timing of the birth of a woman's first child also affected the

chance of her first marriage lasting at least 10 years: women who gave birth to their first child 8 months or more after they began their first marriage (and during the marriage) had a 79% chance of their marriages lasting to the 10th anniversary, compared with about a 34% chance for women who had no first birth during their first marriage, a 55% chance for women who had a premarital first birth, and 54% for women who had a premarital conception (i.e., first birth 0–7 months after marriage). Similar patterns were seen for men: a 79% probability of survival to 10 years for first marriages of men whose first child was born 8 months or more after marriage (and during the marriage), a 65% chance for men whose first child was born before first marriage, and a 37% probability of survival for men who had no first birth during their first marriage.

Previous cohabitation experience was significantly associated with marriage survival probabilities for men. In general, men who cohabited prior to their first marriage had lower probabilities of the marriage surviving to the 10th anniversary than those who did not cohabit prior to their first marriage. However, those men who were engaged at the time of cohabitation with their soon-to-be first wife had similar probabilities that their marriage would last 10 years as did those who did not cohabit prior to marriage: 71% for men who were engaged at cohabitation and 69% for men who had never cohabited before their first marriage.

In Table 16, as in the 1995 NSFG data (4), the probability that a woman's marriage would last at least 10 years was lower for those who cohabited before marriage (60%) than for those who did not cohabit before marriage (66%). However, in the 2002 data, the difference was not statistically significant at the 5% level ($p = 0.06$). If the couple were engaged when they began cohabiting, the probability that a woman's marriage would survive for 10 years was similar (65%) to the probability for couples who did not cohabit at all (66%). In contrast, the probability that the marriage would survive 10 years or more was lower if

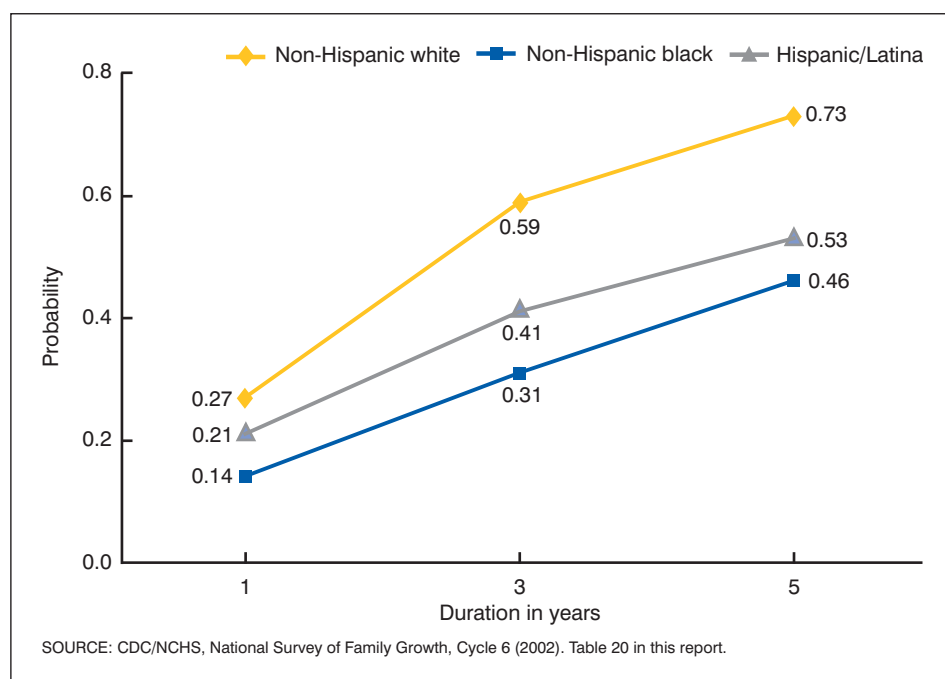


Figure 19. Probability that a woman's first cohabitation transitions to marriage, by duration of cohabitation and by race and Hispanic origin: United States, 2002

the couple were not engaged when they began cohabiting (55%).

Duration and outcomes of first cohabitations

Tables 18 and 19 show the probabilities that a first cohabitation will remain intact (without disruption or transition to marriage) for 1, 3, and 5 years. Overall, first cohabitations were shorter-lived than first marriages. The probability of women remaining in their first cohabiting union for 3 years or more was 0.31 (or 31%); for men it was 0.24 (or 24%). Hispanic women (44%) and non-Hispanic black women (46%) had a higher probability of remaining in their first cohabiting union for at least 3 years than did non-Hispanic white women (26%) (Figure 15). Hispanic men had the highest chance of their first cohabitations remaining intact for 3 years or more (Figure 16 and Table 19).

Differences in the length of cohabitation by educational attainment were large: women with no high school diploma or GED had the highest probability of remaining in a cohabiting relationship for 3 years (43%), and women with a bachelor's degree or higher had the lowest probability of doing so (21%) (Figure 17). Compared

with men with a bachelor's degree or higher, less educated men remained in cohabiting unions longer: for example, the probability of men with no high school diploma or GED remaining in a cohabiting union for 3 years or more was 38%, compared with 13% for men with a bachelor's degree or higher (Figure 18).

Tables 20 and 21 (and Figure 18) help to explain the results in Tables 19 and 20 by showing the probability that a first cohabitation will transition to marriage in 1, 3, and 5 years. These results show that the characteristics of cohabiting men and women are strongly associated with the chance that the cohabitation will become a marriage. Overall, there was approximately a 65% chance that first cohabitations for men and women would transition to marriage within 5 years (Table 20 and 21); within 3 years, the chance of marriage was 0.51 or 51% for both men and women. The probability of a first cohabitation transitioning to marriage within 5 years was higher for non-Hispanic white men and women than for non-Hispanic black or Hispanic men and women (Figures 19 and 20). The probability of non-Hispanic white women's and men's first cohabitations transitioning to marriage within 5 years was about 73%,

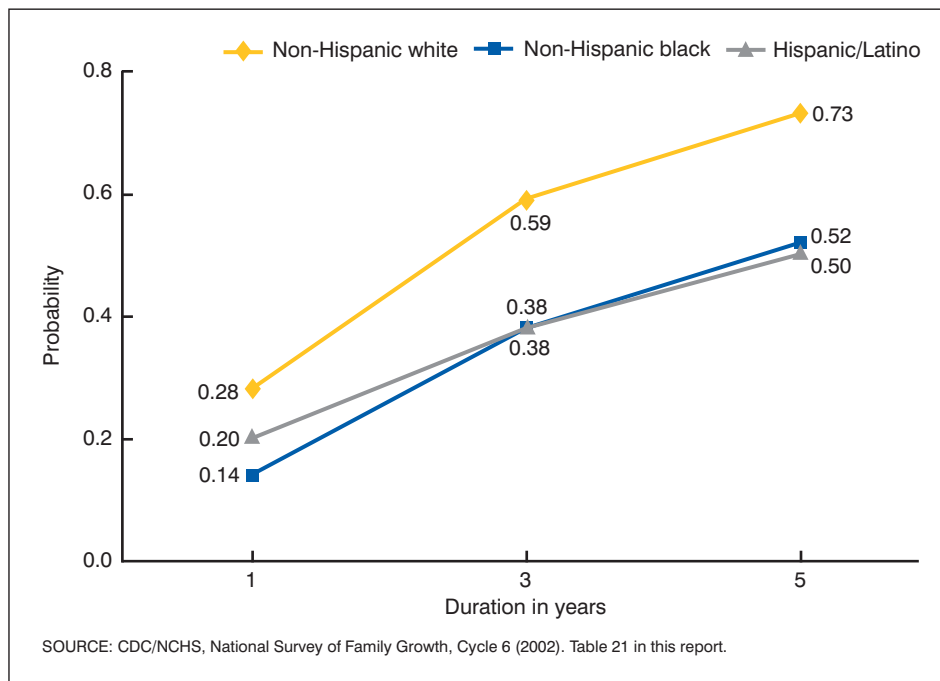


Figure 20. Probability that a man's first cohabitation transitions to marriage, by duration of cohabitation and by race and Hispanic origin: United States, 2002

compared with 40% or less for Hispanic and non-Hispanic black men and women's first cohabitations (Tables 20 and 21). Women with a bachelor's degree or higher had a much greater probability that their first cohabitations would transition to marriage within 3 years (64%) than women with less education (e.g., 37% of women with no high school diploma or GED) (Table 20 and Figure 18). The percentages for men were equally striking, with 68% of first cohabitations transitioning to marriage within 3 years among men with a bachelor's degree or higher, compared with 34% of those with no high school diploma or GED (Table 21 and Figure 18).

Discussion

This report has presented data from the 2002 NSFG on the marital and cohabiting behaviors of men and women aged 15–44 in the United States. Over the last several decades, the percentage of Americans who marry has changed and the percentage ever cohabiting has increased. This has led to discussion of the demographic changes in—and the meaning of—marriage and cohabitation in contemporary society (6,30,40).

Research findings have consistently shown a positive relationship between marriage and health outcomes and well-being for children and adults, whereas the link between cohabitation and health is less definitive.

According to NSFG data, in 2002 about two-thirds of men and women aged 15–44 were currently married, compared with 10% or less who were currently cohabiting. In sharp contrast, about half of men and women had ever cohabited, but a majority of these cohabitations were short lived, came before a first marriage, and often resulted in marriage rather than replacing it. By the fifth year, 65% of first cohabitations had resulted in marriage for both men and women.

Some of the findings from the present report were consistent with findings from the marriage report based on the Cycle 5 (1995) NSFG data (4). Analysis of the 1995 NSFG found that the probability of the first marriages of women aged 15–44 lasting at least 10 years was 67%, whereas the current report based on the Cycle 6 (2002) NSFG found a 64% probability that women's first marriages would last 10 years or more. Similar to the 1995 report, the current report also found that the marital and cohabiting behaviors of

women varied according to race and Hispanic origin. For example, non-Hispanic black women had a lower percentage currently married in 2002 and a lower probability that their marriages would remain intact for 10 years. In 2002, Hispanic men had the highest probability of their marriages remaining intact for 10 years, compared with men and women of other racial groups and with Hispanic women. Cohabitations among Hispanic men and women were more likely to last 5 years (without disruption or transitioning to marriage) than those of other racial and ethnic groups. Non-Hispanic white men and women had higher probabilities of their first cohabitations transitioning to marriage than non-Hispanic black or Hispanic men and women.

Overall, the relationships between marital and cohabiting behaviors and the demographic variables included in the current report were similar for men and women. For example, both men and women who had a bachelor's degree or higher at the time of interview had higher probabilities of their first cohabitations transitioning to marriage and higher probabilities of their marriages remaining intact for 10 years or more than those with less education. Also, both men and women who married later (i.e., at age 26 or over) had a higher likelihood of their marriages lasting 10 years or more than men and women who married during their teen years.

This report shows that NSFG is a rich source of data for the study of marriage and cohabitation. It is hoped that the findings presented here will prompt research questions and further studies that will yield new insights into marriage and cohabitation and their effects on the lives of adults and children in the United States.

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Table 1. Number of women aged 15–44 and percent distribution by current marital or cohabiting status, according to selected characteristics: United States, 2002

Characteristic	Number in thousands	Total	In a union			Nonunion				
			Union subtotal	Married	Cohabiting	Nonunion subtotal	Never married	Divorced	Separated	Widowed
Percent distribution										
Total ¹	61,561	100.0	55.1	46.0	9.1	44.9	35.0	6.8	2.7	0.4
Age										
15–19 years	9,834	100.0	7.6	2.0	5.6	92.4	92.0	*	*	–
15–17 years	5,819	100.0	2.1	*	2.0	97.9	97.9	–	–	–
18–19 years	4,015	100.0	15.6	4.8	10.8	84.4	83.4	*	*	–
20–24 years	9,840	100.0	38.8	23.1	15.7	61.2	57.7	1.4	2.0	*
25–44 years	41,887	100.0	70.0	61.7	8.3	30.0	16.3	9.6	3.4	0.6
25–29 years	9,249	100.0	64.5	51.6	12.9	35.5	28.5	4.0	2.7	0.3
30–34 years	10,272	100.0	69.7	61.8	7.9	30.3	17.4	7.6	5.2	*
35–39 years	10,853	100.0	71.1	64.4	6.7	28.9	13.6	12.0	2.5	0.9
40–44 years	11,512	100.0	73.8	67.2	6.6	26.2	8.2	13.7	3.3	1.0
Hispanic origin and race										
Hispanic or Latina	9,107	100.0	58.8	45.4	13.4	41.2	31.3	4.3	4.8	0.8
Not Hispanic or Latina:										
White, single race	39,498	100.0	58.7	50.8	7.9	41.3	31.8	7.4	1.8	0.3
Black or African American, single race	8,250	100.0	35.4	25.9	9.6	64.6	52.8	7.0	4.4	0.4
Parity										
0 births	25,622	100.0	29.0	20.1	8.9	71.0	67.2	2.8	0.9	*
1 or more births	35,938	100.0	73.7	64.5	9.1	26.4	12.1	9.6	4.0	0.7
Parental living arrangements at age 14										
Two biological or adoptive parents	49,939	100.0	56.2	48.3	7.9	43.8	33.8	6.8	2.7	0.4
Other	11,622	100.0	50.2	36.1	14.1	49.8	40.2	6.7	2.5	0.5
Education ²										
No high school diploma or GED	5,627	100.0	66.3	49.1	17.2	33.7	19.4	6.6	6.6	1.1
High school diploma or GED	14,264	100.0	68.0	56.7	11.3	32.0	18.5	9.4	3.3	0.8
Some college, no bachelor's degree	14,279	100.0	65.0	57.4	7.6	35.0	19.9	11.2	3.5	0.5
Bachelor's degree or higher	13,551	100.0	68.2	62.9	5.4	31.8	23.9	6.1	1.6	*
Percent of poverty level ²										
0–149%	13,028	100.0	53.9	40.9	13.0	46.1	26.9	11.5	6.6	1.1
0–99%	8,183	100.0	52.3	39.1	13.1	47.7	28.4	9.6	8.4	1.3
150–299%	13,456	100.0	70.3	60.4	9.9	29.7	18.2	8.4	2.6	0.5
300% or higher	21,237	100.0	72.9	66.5	6.4	27.1	18.1	7.1	1.7	0.2
Importance of religion										
Very important	30,556	100.0	58.6	51.6	6.9	41.5	32.0	6.1	2.8	0.6
Somewhat important	19,020	100.0	53.5	43.8	9.7	46.5	36.9	7.0	2.4	0.2
Not important	11,852	100.0	48.5	35.0	13.6	51.5	39.9	8.1	3.0	0.5
Nativity										
U.S. born	52,641	100.0	53.3	44.6	8.8	46.7	36.6	7.3	2.4	0.4
Foreign born	8,819	100.0	65.5	54.9	10.6	34.5	25.6	3.9	4.4	0.7

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

– Quantity zero.

¹Includes women of other or multiple race and origin groups and women with missing information on nativity or importance of religion.²Limited to women aged 22–44 at time of interview. GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

NOTE: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 6 (2002).

Table 2. Number of men aged 15–44 and percent distribution by current marital or cohabiting status, according to selected characteristics: United States, 2002

Characteristic	Number in thousands	Total	In a union			Nonunion				
			Union subtotal	Married	Cohabiting	Nonunion subtotal	Never married	Divorced	Separated	Widowed
Percent distribution										
Total ¹	61,147	100.0	51.5	42.2	9.2	48.6	41.6	5.4	1.5	0.1
Age										
15–19 years	10,208	100.0	2.3	0.4	1.9	97.7	97.5	–	*	–
15–17 years	5,748	100.0	0.9	*	*	99.1	98.9	–	*	–
18–19 years	4,460	100.0	4.1	0.7	3.4	95.9	95.6	–	*	–
20–24 years	9,883	100.0	28.8	15.4	13.4	71.2	69.8	*	1.2	–
25–44 years	41,056	100.0	69.1	59.1	10.1	30.9	20.9	7.9	1.9	0.1
25–29 years	9,226	100.0	63.0	45.3	17.8	37.0	33.0	2.6	1.3	–
30–34 years	10,138	100.0	70.2	60.6	9.6	29.8	21.9	5.7	1.9	*
35–39 years	10,557	100.0	73.7	65.6	8.2	26.3	16.5	7.6	2.0	*
40–44 years	11,135	100.0	68.9	62.9	6.0	31.1	14.0	14.6	2.4	*
Hispanic origin and race										
Hispanic or Latino	10,188	100.0	56.7	42.7	14.0	43.3	38.1	3.3	2.0	–
Not Hispanic or Latino:										
White, single race	38,738	100.0	52.3	44.4	7.9	47.7	40.3	6.0	1.4	*
Black or African American, single race	6,940	100.0	41.5	31.5	10.0	58.5	50.0	5.7	2.6	*
Number of biological children										
None	32,593	100.0	24.7	16.9	7.9	75.3	72.4	2.3	0.5	*
1 or more	28,554	100.0	82.0	71.2	10.8	18.0	6.4	8.8	2.7	0.1
Parental living arrangements at age 14										
Two biological or adoptive parents	50,596	100.0	51.7	43.0	8.7	48.3	41.4	5.3	1.6	0.1
Other	10,551	100.0	50.3	38.3	12.0	49.7	42.2	5.9	1.5	*
Education ²										
No high school diploma or GED	6,355	100.0	69.8	53.2	16.6	30.2	22.4	5.1	2.7	*
High school diploma or GED	15,659	100.0	66.2	53.9	12.3	33.8	20.9	10.2	2.6	*
Some college, no bachelor's degree	13,104	100.0	58.5	48.7	9.8	41.5	33.3	6.6	1.5	*
Bachelor's degree or higher	11,901	100.0	68.7	61.7	7.0	31.3	26.1	4.2	1.0	*
Percent of poverty level ²										
0–149%	9,744	100.0	64.5	50.1	14.5	35.5	26.3	7.3	1.8	*
0–99%	5,790	100.0	61.4	43.3	18.1	38.6	28.6	7.6	2.2	*
150–299%	13,282	100.0	66.7	55.4	11.3	33.3	24.8	6.6	1.8	*
300% or higher	23,992	100.0	64.5	55.4	9.1	35.5	26.3	7.1	2.0	0.1
Importance of religion										
Very important	23,586	100.0	59.2	50.9	8.3	40.8	34.5	4.6	1.6	*
Somewhat important	20,010	100.0	48.5	40.6	7.9	51.5	44.2	5.6	1.6	*
Not important	17,466	100.0	44.4	32.4	12.1	55.6	48.0	6.0	1.4	0.2
Nativity										
U.S. born	51,639	100.0	49.8	40.7	9.1	50.2	42.9	5.7	1.5	0.1
Foreign born	9,372	100.0	60.6	50.8	9.8	39.4	34.2	3.6	1.6	–

– Quantity zero.

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

¹Includes men of other or multiple race and origin groups and men with missing information on nativity or importance of religion.²Limited to men aged 22–44 at time of interview. GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

NOTE: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 6 (2002).

Table 3. Number of non-Hispanic white women aged 15–44 and percent distribution by current marital or cohabiting status, according to selected characteristics: United States, 2002

Characteristic	Number in thousands	Total	In a union			Nonunion				
			Union subtotal	Married	Cohabiting	Nonunion subtotal	Never married	Divorced	Separated	Widowed
Percent distribution										
Total ¹	39,498	100.0	58.7	50.8	7.9	41.3	31.8	7.4	1.8	0.3
Age										
15–19 years	6,070	100.0	7.5	2.0	5.5	92.5	92.2	*	*	–
15–17 years	3,563	100.0	*	0.0	*	98.7	98.7	–	–	–
18–19 years	2,507	100.0	16.3	4.7	11.6	83.7	82.9	*	*	–
20–24 years	5,938	100.0	38.6	23.4	15.2	61.4	57.6	2.0	1.8	–
25–44 years	27,491	100.0	74.3	67.5	6.8	25.7	12.8	10.2	2.2	0.5
25–29 years	5,613	100.0	68.6	56.9	11.7	31.4	24.9	4.6	1.8	*
30–34 years	6,461	100.0	73.7	67.8	5.9	26.4	14.1	7.9	4.2	*
35–39 years	7,249	100.0	75.7	70.6	5.1	24.3	10.0	12.2	1.3	0.8
40–44 years	8,169	100.0	77.4	71.8	5.7	22.6	6.0	14.2	1.7	0.7
Parity										
0 births	17,451	100.0	33.0	23.3	9.7	67.0	63.4	2.9	0.7	*
1 or more births	22,048	100.0	79.0	72.5	6.4	21.0	6.7	11.1	2.7	0.5
Parental living arrangements at age 14										
Two biological or adoptive parents	33,797	100.0	58.0	51.7	6.4	42.0	32.1	7.7	1.9	0.3
Other	5,701	100.0	62.3	45.4	16.9	37.7	30.0	5.9	1.5	*
Education ²										
No high school diploma or GED	1,963	100.0	66.0	48.9	17.1	34.0	15.6	12.4	5.3	0.7
High school diploma or GED	9,031	100.0	74.1	64.9	9.2	25.9	12.2	10.6	2.3	0.9
Some college, no bachelor's degree	9,676	100.0	70.0	63.0	7.0	30.0	15.5	11.6	2.8	0.1
Bachelor's degree or higher	10,221	100.0	70.8	65.5	5.3	29.2	22.5	5.7	0.8	*
Percent of poverty level ²										
0–149%	5,911	100.0	53.4	42.9	10.5	46.6	23.6	17.1	4.6	1.3
0–99%	3,338	100.0	52.0	40.5	11.5	48.0	25.2	14.3	6.8	1.7
150–299%	8,555	100.0	74.5	65.4	9.1	25.5	14.0	9.1	2.2	0.3
300% or higher	16,426	100.0	75.9	69.9	6.0	24.1	15.9	6.8	1.3	*
Importance of religion										
Very important	17,242	100.0	64.7	60.1	4.6	35.3	27.0	6.2	1.6	0.5
Somewhat important	13,462	100.0	57.2	48.2	9.0	42.8	33.1	7.7	1.9	0.2
Not important	8,742	100.0	49.0	36.3	12.6	51.0	39.1	9.5	2.1	*
Nativity										
U.S. born	37,792	100.0	58.3	50.3	7.9	41.7	32.1	7.5	1.8	0.3
Foreign born	1,658	100.0	67.8	61.7	6.1	32.2	23.5	6.7	1.5	*

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

– Quantity zero.

¹Includes women with missing information on nativity or importance of religion.²Limited to women aged 22–44 at time of interview. GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

NOTE: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 6 (2002).

Table 4. Number of non-Hispanic white men aged 15–44 and percent distribution by current marital or cohabiting status, according to selected characteristics: United States, 2002

Characteristic	Number in thousands	Total	In a union			Nonunion				
			Union subtotal	Married	Cohabiting	Nonunion subtotal	Never married	Divorced	Separated	Widowed
Percent distribution										
Total ¹	38,738	100.0	52.3	44.4	7.9	47.7	40.3	6.0	1.4	*
Age										
15–19 years	6,324	100.0	2.1	*	1.8	97.9	97.6	–	*	–
15–17 years	3,584	100.0	*	*	*	99.2	99.0	–	*	–
18–19 years	2,740	100.0	3.9	*	3.5	96.1	95.9	–	*	–
20–24 years	5,987	100.0	29.1	16.3	12.8	70.9	70.3	*	0.5	–
25–44 years	26,428	100.0	69.5	61.2	8.3	30.5	19.8	8.7	1.8	*
25–29 years	5,159	100.0	66.8	50.4	16.4	33.2	29.1	2.7	1.5	–
30–34 years	6,536	100.0	70.3	62.9	7.4	29.7	21.3	6.2	1.9	*
35–39 years	6,997	100.0	74.0	68.3	5.7	26.0	16.3	8.1	1.5	*
40–44 years	7,736	100.0	66.7	60.7	6.0	33.3	15.6	15.4	2.3	–
Number of biological children										
None	21,741	100.0	28.5	19.5	9.0	71.6	68.5	2.6	0.5	*
1 or more	16,998	100.0	82.7	76.2	6.6	17.3	4.4	10.3	2.5	*
Parental living arrangements at age 14										
Two biological or adoptive parents	33,350	100.0	52.1	44.7	7.5	47.9	40.7	5.7	1.4	*
Other	5,388	100.0	53.1	42.5	10.6	46.9	38.1	7.7	0.8	*
Education ²										
No high school diploma or GED	2,702	100.0	63.9	52.8	11.1	36.1	26.7	6.8	2.5	*
High school diploma or GED	9,524	100.0	66.6	55.5	11.1	33.4	19.0	11.8	2.5	*
Some college, no bachelor's degree	8,657	100.0	59.9	51.7	8.2	40.1	31.7	7.2	1.2	–
Bachelor's degree or higher	9,183	100.0	71.8	64.6	7.2	28.2	22.9	4.2	1.1	*
Percent of poverty level ²										
0–149%	4,062	100.0	59.9	48.2	11.8	40.1	27.7	10.3	1.9	*
0–99%	2,266	100.0	53.1	39.9	13.2	46.9	32.7	11.2	3.0	–
150–299%	7,818	100.0	66.7	57.5	9.2	33.3	24.1	8.3	0.8	*
300% or higher	18,187	100.0	67.0	58.6	8.4	33.0	24.0	6.8	2.0	*
Importance of religion										
Very important	12,185	100.0	60.6	55.0	5.6	39.4	32.8	5.4	1.2	*
Somewhat important	13,509	100.0	49.9	43.4	6.5	50.2	41.9	6.5	1.8	–
Not important	12,998	100.0	47.0	35.4	11.6	53.0	45.7	6.0	1.1	*
Nativity										
U.S. born	37,100	100.0	52.1	43.9	8.2	47.9	40.5	6.0	1.3	*
Foreign born	1,580	100.0	56.9	55.7	1.1	43.1	36.9	4.0	2.2	–

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

– Quantity zero.

¹Includes men with missing information on nativity or importance of religion.²Limited to men aged 22–44 at time of interview. GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

NOTE: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 6 (2002).

Table 5. Number of non-Hispanic black women aged 15–44 and percent distribution by current marital or cohabiting status, according to selected characteristics: United States, 2002

Characteristic	Number in thousands	Total	In a union			Nonunion				
			Union subtotal	Married	Cohabiting	Nonunion subtotal	Never married	Divorced	Separated	Widowed
						Percent distribution				
Total ¹	8,250	100.0	35.4	25.9	9.6	64.6	52.8	7.0	4.4	0.4
Age										
15–19 years	1,409	100.0	2.3	*	2.1	97.7	97.7	–	–	–
15–17 years	852	100.0	*	–	*	99.6	99.6	–	–	–
18–19 years	558	100.0	5.2	*	4.7	94.8	94.8	–	–	–
20–24 years	1,396	100.0	26.2	10.8	15.5	73.8	71.6	*	1.2	–
25–44 years	5,445	100.0	46.4	36.4	10.0	53.6	36.3	10.4	6.3	0.7
25–29 years	1,256	100.0	42.4	31.4	11.0	57.6	50.4	2.8	4.4	–
30–34 years	1,331	100.0	46.9	34.9	11.9	53.1	38.5	6.8	7.8	–
35–39 years	1,434	100.0	42.6	34.2	8.4	57.4	37.2	14.5	4.7	*
40–44 years	1,423	100.0	53.2	44.3	8.9	46.8	21.0	16.2	8.2	1.5
Parity										
0 births	3,032	100.0	14.1	8.2	5.9	85.9	80.7	3.3	1.8	*
1 or more births	5,218	100.0	47.8	36.1	11.7	52.2	36.5	9.2	5.8	0.6
Parental living arrangements at age 14										
Two biological or adoptive parents	5,081	100.0	38.8	29.4	9.4	61.2	48.8	6.7	5.3	0.5
Other	3,170	100.0	30.0	20.2	9.8	70.0	59.2	7.5	2.9	0.4
Education ²										
No high school diploma or GED	926	100.0	45.9	30.4	15.5	54.1	41.4	3.3	7.7	*
High school diploma or GED	2,252	100.0	40.9	27.8	13.1	59.1	47.7	6.2	4.8	*
Some college, no bachelor's degree	2,030	100.0	43.6	34.9	8.7	56.4	36.0	13.4	6.5	*
Bachelor's degree or higher	1,089	100.0	48.4	43.7	4.7	51.6	35.1	12.6	3.9	
Percent of poverty level ²										
0–149%	2,619	100.0	36.0	23.9	12.1	64.0	48.3	6.8	8.3	*
0–99%	1,787	100.0	35.5	24.0	11.5	64.5	49.4	5.5	8.7	*
150–299%	1,795	100.0	45.9	34.4	11.6	54.1	40.1	10.0	3.1	0.8
300% or higher	1,883	100.0	52.7	45.1	7.6	47.3	31.1	11.6	4.3	*
Importance of religion										
Very important	5,866	100.0	37.4	29.5	7.9	62.6	49.8	7.9	4.4	0.4
Somewhat important	1,479	100.0	26.5	12.0	14.5	73.5	63.3	6.0	4.2	–
Not important	858	100.0	36.2	22.9	13.2	63.8	55.3	2.7	4.4	*
Nativity										
U.S. born	7,350	100.0	34.2	24.6	9.6	65.8	53.2	7.5	4.6	0.5
Foreign born	884	100.0	45.5	36.2	9.4	54.5	49.9	3.1	*	–

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

– Quantity zero.

¹Includes women with missing information on nativity or importance of religion.²Limited to women aged 22–44 at time of interview. GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

NOTE: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 6 (2002).

Table 6. Number of non-Hispanic black men aged 15–44 and percent distribution by current marital or cohabiting status, according to selected characteristics: United States, 2002

Characteristic	Number in thousands	Total	In a union			Nonunion				
			Union subtotal	Married	Cohabiting	Nonunion subtotal	Never married	Divorced	Separated	Widowed
Percent distribution										
Total ¹	6,940	100.0	41.5	31.5	10.0	58.5	50.0	5.7	2.6	*
Age										
15–19 years	1,352	100.0	*	*	*	98.5	98.5	–	–	–
15–17 years	813	100.0	–	–	–	100.0	100.0	–	–	–
18–19 years	539	100.0	*	*	*	96.3	96.3	–	–	–
20–24 years	1,198	100.0	22.5	11.5	11.0	77.5	75.5	–	2.0	–
25–44 years	4,390	100.0	59.0	46.6	12.5	41.0	28.1	9.0	3.5	*
25–29 years	974	100.0	48.2	26.9	21.3	51.8	48.4	*	*	–
30–34 years	1,077	100.0	57.2	42.6	14.5	42.8	32.4	8.2	*	*
35–39 years	1,160	100.0	66.5	59.8	6.7	33.5	19.3	8.1	5.8	*
40–44 years	1,179	100.0	62.3	53.3	9.0	37.7	16.1	16.6	4.1	*
Number of biological children										
None	3,510	100.0	13.8	8.4	5.4	86.2	83.0	2.3	0.7	*
1 or more	3,439	100.0	69.7	55.0	14.7	30.3	16.4	9.2	4.5	*
Parental living arrangements at age 14										
Two biological or adoptive parents	4,733	100.0	42.5	32.2	10.3	57.5	49.2	5.5	2.5	*
Other	2,207	100.0	39.3	30.0	9.3	60.7	51.7	6.2	2.7	*
Education ²										
No high school diploma or GED	675	100.0	57.6	38.3	19.3	42.4	32.7	5.4	*	–
High school diploma or GED	2,351	100.0	54.9	43.0	11.9	45.1	30.2	10.4	4.4	*
Some college, no bachelor's degree	1,486	100.0	48.4	40.2	8.2	51.6	44.2	3.9	2.6	*
Bachelor's degree or higher	698	100.0	57.9	42.7	15.2	42.1	33.1	8.1	*	–
Percent of poverty level ²										
0–149%	1,507	100.0	53.2	41.1	12.1	46.8	39.3	5.0	1.9	*
0–99%	907	100.0	49.6	36.5	13.1	50.4	40.3	6.6	2.6	*
150–299%	1,628	100.0	55.0	44.2	10.8	45.1	33.7	6.2	4.9	*
300% or higher	2,075	100.0	53.4	39.8	13.6	46.6	32.6	10.5	3.2	*
Importance of religion										
Very important	4,339	100.0	45.7	38.5	7.2	54.3	47.1	5.2	1.8	*
Somewhat important	1,403	100.0	39.7	26.6	13.1	60.3	51.3	6.1	2.7	*
Not important	1,186	100.0	28.1	11.3	16.8	71.9	59.2	7.1	5.4	*
Nativity										
U.S. born	6,192	100.0	40.7	30.2	10.5	59.4	51.0	5.4	2.6	*
Foreign born	715	100.0	48.0	43.3	4.7	52.1	41.9	8.1	*	–

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

– Quantity zero.

¹Includes men with missing information on nativity or importance of religion.²Limited to men aged 22–44 at time of interview. GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

NOTE: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 6 (2002).

Table 7. Number of Hispanic/Latina women aged 15–44 and percent distribution by current marital or cohabiting status, according to selected characteristics: United States, 2002

Characteristic	Number in thousands	Total	In a union			Nonunion					
			Union subtotal	Married	Cohabiting	Nonunion subtotal	Never married	Divorced	Separated	Widowed	
			Percent distribution								
Total ¹	9,107	100.0	58.9	45.4	13.4	41.2	31.3	4.3	4.8	0.8	
Age											
15–19 years	1,521	100.0	13.0	3.9	9.1	87.0	86.1	–	*	–	
15–17 years	912	100.0	6.6	*	6.1	93.5	93.5	–	–	–	
18–19 years	608	100.0	22.7	9.2	13.5	77.3	75.0	–	2.3	–	
20–24 years	1,632	100.0	53.1	32.4	20.7	46.9	42.4	*	3.4	*	
25–29 years	5,954	100.0	72.1	59.6	12.5	27.9	14.2	6.4	6.3	1.0	
25–29 years	1,654	100.0	68.0	48.6	19.3	32.0	23.1	2.7	5.1	*	
30–34 years	1,595	100.0	75.1	64.2	10.8	24.9	13.4	5.4	5.9	*	
35–39 years	1,448	100.0	73.7	62.3	11.4	26.3	9.7	9.1	6.8	*	
40–44 years	1,258	100.0	72.0	65.1	7.0	28.0	8.7	9.6	7.7	2.0	
Parity											
0 births	2,948	100.0	24.2	16.0	8.3	75.8	73.5	1.3	1.0	–	
1 or more births	6,159	100.0	75.4	59.6	15.9	24.6	11.0	5.7	6.7	1.1	
Parental living arrangements at age 14											
Two biological or adoptive parents	7,344	100.0	59.3	46.3	13.0	40.7	31.2	3.6	5.1	0.7	
Other	1,763	100.0	56.8	41.7	15.1	43.2	31.3	7.2	3.8	*	
Education ²											
No high school diploma or GED	2,519	100.0	74.3	56.4	17.9	25.7	14.7	2.7	7.2	1.1	
High school diploma or GED	2,030	100.0	71.0	56.2	14.9	29.0	15.3	7.4	5.7	*	
Some college, no bachelor's degree	1,571	100.0	65.4	56.4	9.1	34.6	19.9	8.5	4.2	1.9	
Bachelor's degree or higher	817	100.0	64.3	58.0	6.3	35.7	24.0	4.8	6.9	–	
Percent of poverty level ²											
0–149%	3,508	100.0	66.9	51.0	15.9	33.1	17.4	5.4	9.1	1.2	
0–99%	2,540	100.0	64.5	49.1	15.4	35.5	18.5	5.2	10.5	1.4	
150–299%	2,008	100.0	75.8	63.1	12.7	24.2	13.8	6.1	3.3	*	
300% or higher	1,421	100.0	70.3	60.8	9.4	29.7	21.1	5.7	2.5	*	
Importance of religion											
Very important	4,985	100.0	65.4	51.5	13.9	34.6	24.6	4.2	5.0	0.8	
Somewhat important	2,768	100.0	52.5	42.0	10.5	47.5	39.1	4.2	3.8	*	
Not important	1,330	100.0	48.0	30.1	17.9	52.0	39.5	5.1	6.4	*	
Nativity											
U.S. born	4,560	100.0	48.8	37.2	11.7	51.1	41.9	5.4	3.0	0.7	
Foreign born	4,518	100.0	69.0	53.8	15.2	31.0	20.3	3.2	6.7	0.8	

– Quantity zero.

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

¹Includes women with missing information on nativity or importance of religion.²Limited to women aged 22–44 at time of interview. GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

NOTE: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 6 (2002).

Table 8. Number of Hispanic/Latino men aged 15–44 and percent distribution by current marital or cohabiting status, according to selected characteristics: United States, 2002

Characteristic	Number in thousands	Total	In a union			Nonunion				
			Union subtotal	Married	Cohabiting	Nonunion subtotal	Never married	Divorced	Separated	Widowed
Percent distribution										
Total ¹	10,188	100.0	56.7	42.7	14.0	43.3	38.1	3.3	2.0	–
Age										
15–19 years	1,628	100.0	3.5	*	2.6	96.5	95.9	0.0	*	–
15–17 years	852	100.0	*	0.0	*	98.5	98.5	0.0	0.0	–
18–19 years	775	100.0	5.8	*	3.9	94.3	92.9	0.0	*	–
20–24 years	1,952	100.0	33.6	17.7	15.9	66.4	62.2	*	3.5	–
25–44 years	6,609	100.0	76.6	60.4	16.2	23.4	16.8	4.8	1.9	–
25–29 years	1,935	100.0	71.6	49.6	21.9	28.4	24.6	2.9	*	–
30–34 years	1,790	100.0	78.6	61.7	16.9	21.4	15.5	3.7	2.2	–
35–39 years	1,571	100.0	77.6	61.5	16.1	22.4	16.2	4.6	1.6	–
40–44 years	1,312	100.0	80.0	73.1	6.8	20.0	7.5	9.4	3.2	–
Number of biological children										
None	4,536	100.0	20.9	13.8	7.1	79.1	77.0	1.5	0.6	–
1 or more	5,652	100.0	85.4	65.9	19.5	14.6	6.9	4.7	3.1	–
Parental living arrangements at age 14										
Two biological or adoptive parents	8,302	100.0	57.5	44.6	12.9	42.5	37.3	3.4	1.8	–
Other	1,886	100.0	53.0	34.3	18.7	47.0	41.5	2.7	2.8	–
Education ²										
No high school diploma or GED	2,685	100.0	78.7	57.2	21.5	21.3	15.7	3.1	2.5	–
High school diploma or GED	2,676	100.0	72.7	56.2	16.5	27.3	21.4	3.8	2.1	–
Some college, no bachelor's degree	1,557	100.0	57.4	40.9	16.6	42.6	33.6	6.6	2.3	–
Bachelor's degree or higher	820	100.0	67.5	61.5	6.0	32.5	25.8	5.1	*	–
Percent of poverty level ²										
0–149%	2,885	100.0	74.2	53.9	20.2	25.9	20.8	3.0	2.1	–
0–99%	1,835	100.0	73.2	47.1	26.2	26.8	22.8	1.8	2.1	–
150–299%	2,765	100.0	74.2	57.7	16.5	25.8	19.0	3.5	3.3	–
300% or higher	2,088	100.0	63.0	49.2	13.8	37.0	28.8	7.1	1.1	–
Importance of religion										
Very important	4,708	100.0	67.1	53.2	13.9	32.9	27.1	2.8	3.0	–
Somewhat important	3,554	100.0	48.7	35.3	13.4	51.3	47.2	3.2	1.0	–
Not important	1,913	100.0	46.2	30.7	15.5	53.8	48.1	4.3	1.4	–
Nativity										
U.S. born	4,700	100.0	42.8	30.8	12.0	57.2	51.5	3.4	2.3	–
Foreign born	5,444	100.0	68.6	52.9	15.7	31.5	26.6	3.1	1.8	–

– Quantity zero.

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

¹Includes men with missing information on nativity or importance of religion.²Limited to men aged 22–44 at time of interview. GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

NOTE: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 6 (2002).

Table 9. Number of women aged 15–44 and percent distribution by formal marital experience and number of husbands, according to selected characteristics: United States, 2002

Characteristic	Number in thousands	Total	Never married	Ever married	Number of husbands		
					1	2	3 or more
Percent distribution							
Total ¹	61,561	100.0	41.8	58.2	47.2	8.8	2.3
Age							
15–19 years	9,834	100.0	97.6	2.4	2.4	–	–
20–24 years	9,840	100.0	72.7	27.3	26.7	0.6	–
25–44 years	41,887	100.0	21.4	78.6	62.5	12.8	3.3
25–29 years	9,249	100.0	39.8	60.2	55.7	4.4	*
30–34 years	10,272	100.0	22.4	77.6	66.6	9.2	1.8
35–39 years	10,853	100.0	16.7	83.3	64.5	15.2	3.6
40–44 years	11,512	100.0	10.1	89.9	62.4	20.4	7.1
Hispanic origin and race							
Hispanic or Latina	9,107	100.0	42.1	57.9	50.0	7.6	0.3
Not Hispanic or Latina:							
White, single race	39,498	100.0	37.2	62.8	49.3	10.3	3.2
Black or African American, single race	8,250	100.0	60.7	39.3	34.1	4.7	0.6
Parity							
0 births	25,622	100.0	75.2	24.8	22.2	2.1	0.5
1 or more births	35,938	100.0	17.9	82.1	65.0	13.6	3.5
Parental living arrangements at age 14							
Two biological or adoptive parents	49,939	100.0	39.5	60.5	49.7	9.0	1.8
Other	11,622	100.0	51.4	48.6	36.3	7.9	4.5
Education ²							
No high school diploma or GED	5,627	100.0	32.2	67.8	54.1	11.3	2.3
High school diploma or GED	14,264	100.0	25.1	75.0	53.8	15.9	5.2
Some college, no bachelor's degree	14,279	100.0	24.9	75.1	61.1	11.4	2.6
Bachelor's degree or higher	13,551	100.0	28.2	71.8	64.2	6.5	1.2
Percent of poverty level ²							
0–149%	13,028	100.0	35.4	64.6	52.9	9.1	2.6
0–99%	8,183	100.0	37.5	62.6	51.1	8.5	2.9
150–299%	13,456	100.0	24.6	75.4	58.0	13.2	4.2
300% or higher	21,237	100.0	22.8	77.2	63.3	11.6	2.4
Importance of religion							
Very important	30,556	100.0	36.5	63.5	51.7	9.3	2.5
Somewhat important	19,020	100.0	44.4	55.6	44.1	9.2	2.3
Not important	11,852	100.0	51.1	48.9	40.2	7.0	1.7

– Quantity zero.

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

¹Includes women of other or multiple race and origin groups and women with missing information on nativity or importance of religion.²Limited to women aged 22–44 at time of interview. GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

NOTE: Percentages with 1, 2, or 3 or more husbands may not add to percent "ever married" due to rounding.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 6 (2002).

Table 10. Number of men aged 15–44 and percent distribution by formal marital experience and number of wives, according to selected characteristics: United States, 2002

Characteristic	Number in thousands	Total	Never married	Ever married	Number of wives		
					1	2	3 or more
Percent distribution							
Total ¹	61,147	100.0	49.4	50.7	41.9	6.9	2.0
Age							
15–19 years	10,208	100.0	99.3	0.7	0.7	–	–
20–24 years	9,883	100.0	83.2	16.8	16.8	–	–
25–44 years	41,056	100.0	28.8	71.2	58.1	10.2	2.9
25–29 years	9,226	100.0	50.3	49.8	48.6	1.1	–
30–34 years	10,137	100.0	29.9	70.1	61.0	8.4	0.8
35–39 years	10,557	100.0	21.8	78.2	64.1	12.6	1.6
40–44 years	11,135	100.0	16.6	83.4	57.8	17.2	8.5
Hispanic origin and race							
Hispanic or Latino	10,188	100.0	50.3	49.7	44.8	4.2	0.7
Not Hispanic or Latino:							
White, single race	38,739	100.0	46.8	53.2	43.1	7.4	2.7
Black or African American, single race	6,940	100.0	58.3	41.7	33.3	6.9	*
Number of biological children							
None	32,593	100.0	79.7	20.3	18.2	1.9	0.4
1 or more	28,554	100.0	14.7	85.3	68.9	12.5	3.9
Parental living arrangements at age 14							
Two biological or adoptive parents	50,597	100.0	48.7	51.3	42.4	7.0	1.9
Other	10,551	100.0	52.3	47.7	39.5	6.0	2.2
Education ²							
No high school diploma or GED	6,355	100.0	36.5	63.5	50.7	9.6	3.3
High school diploma or GED	15,659	100.0	31.1	68.9	52.8	11.2	4.9
Some college, no bachelor's degree	13,104	100.0	41.3	58.7	48.6	8.9	1.3
Bachelor's degree or higher	11,901	100.0	31.7	68.3	62.4	5.6	*
Percent of poverty level ²							
0–149%	9,744	100.0	39.0	61.0	49.2	8.9	2.9
0–99%	5,790	100.0	44.3	55.7	43.6	8.3	3.9
150–299%	13,282	100.0	34.0	66.0	53.4	9.9	2.6
300% or higher	23,992	100.0	33.5	66.5	55.8	8.4	2.3
Importance of religion							
Very important	23,586	100.0	41.6	58.4	47.8	8.3	2.3
Somewhat important	20,010	100.0	51.2	48.8	39.9	6.8	2.1
Not important	17,466	100.0	57.8	42.2	36.0	5.0	1.2

– Quantity zero.

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

¹Includes men of other or multiple race and origin groups and men with missing information on nativity or importance of religion.²Limited to men aged 22–44 at time of interview. GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

NOTE: Percentages with 1, 2, or 3 or more wives may not add to percent "ever married" due to rounding.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 6 (2002).

Table 11. Number of women aged 15–44 and percent distribution by cohabiting experience and number of cohabiting partners, according to selected characteristics: United States, 2002

Characteristic	Number in thousands	Total	Never cohabited	Ever cohabited	Number of cohabiting partners		
					1	2	3 or more
Percent distribution							
Total ¹	61,561	100.0	50.0	50.0	33.5	11.3	5.3
Age							
15–19 years	9,834	100.0	88.3	11.7	8.9	2.4	0.5
20–24 years	9,840	100.0	56.9	43.1	34.9	6.1	2.1
25–44 years	41,887	100.0	39.4	60.6	39.0	14.7	7.1
25–29 years	9,249	100.0	39.1	60.9	42.4	14.1	4.5
30–34 years	10,272	100.0	36.8	63.2	38.1	17.3	7.9
35–39 years	10,853	100.0	38.7	61.3	39.8	13.8	7.9
40–44 years	11,512	100.0	42.6	57.4	36.2	13.6	7.8
Hispanic origin and race							
Hispanic or Latina	9,107	100.0	51.2	48.8	36.3	8.8	3.8
Not Hispanic or Latina:							
White, single race	39,498	100.0	49.5	50.5	33.0	11.7	5.8
Black or African American, single race	8,250	100.0	48.9	51.1	35.3	11.9	4.1
Parity							
0 births	25,622	100.0	68.2	31.8	22.5	6.5	2.9
1 or more births	35,938	100.0	37.0	63.0	41.4	14.8	7.0
Parental living arrangements at age 14							
Two biological or adoptive parents	49,939	100.0	52.5	47.5	32.1	10.8	4.7
Other	11,622	100.0	39.3	60.8	39.5	13.6	7.6
Education ²							
No high school diploma or GED	5,627	100.0	30.7	69.4	41.9	18.6	9.0
High school diploma or GED	14,264	100.0	31.5	68.5	42.4	16.1	10.2
Some college, no bachelor's degree	14,279	100.0	41.8	58.3	37.7	15.1	5.6
Bachelor's degree or higher	13,551	100.0	53.7	46.3	35.1	8.4	2.9
Percent of poverty level ²							
0–149%	13,028	100.0	36.9	63.1	38.9	15.7	8.5
0–99%	8,183	100.0	36.8	63.2	38.2	15.4	9.4
150–299%	13,456	100.0	41.1	58.9	38.2	14.0	6.8
300% or higher	21,237	100.0	42.9	57.1	39.2	12.7	5.3
Importance of religion							
Very important	30,556	100.0	56.8	43.2	29.9	8.8	4.7
Somewhat important	19,020	100.0	46.9	53.2	36.3	12.0	5.0
Not important	11,852	100.0	37.2	62.8	38.4	17.0	7.2

¹Includes women of other or multiple race and origin groups and women with missing information on number of cohabiting partners, nativity, or importance of religion.

²Limited to women aged 22–44 at time of interview. GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

NOTE: Percentages with 1, 2, or 3 or more cohabiting partners may not add to percent "ever cohabited" due to rounding or due to missing information on numbers of cohabiting partners.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 6 (2002).

Table 12. Number of men aged 15–44 and percent distribution by cohabiting experience and number of cohabiting partners, according to selected characteristics: United States, 2002

Characteristic	Number in thousands	Total	Never cohabited	Ever cohabited	Number of cohabiting partners		
					1	2	3 or more
Percent distribution							
Total ¹	61,147	100.0	51.2	48.8	28.0	11.2	9.6
Age							
15–19 years	10,208	100.0	94.5	5.5	4.7	0.5	0.3
20–24 years	9,883	100.0	66.1	33.9	24.1	6.7	3.0
25–44 years	41,056	100.0	36.8	63.2	34.7	15.0	13.4
25–29 years	9,226	100.0	41.5	58.5	38.7	12.4	7.4
30–34 years	10,137	100.0	37.7	62.3	36.3	13.8	12.1
35–39 years	10,557	100.0	35.4	64.7	33.6	14.9	16.2
40–44 years	11,135	100.0	33.5	66.5	31.1	18.3	17.0
Hispanic origin and race							
Hispanic or Latino	10,188	100.0	52.8	47.3	31.1	8.6	7.4
Not Hispanic or Latino:							
White, single race	38,738	100.0	50.6	49.4	27.8	12.0	9.3
Black or African American, single race	6,940	100.0	47.4	52.6	25.8	11.8	14.3
Number of biological children							
None	32,593	100.0	67.4	32.6	19.2	8.0	5.3
1 or more	28,554	100.0	32.6	67.4	38.0	14.9	14.5
Parental living arrangements at age 14							
Two biological or adoptive parents	50,596	100.0	52.3	47.7	28.5	10.5	8.6
Other	10,551	100.0	45.6	54.4	25.5	14.9	14.1
Education ²							
No high school diploma or GED	6,355	100.0	32.8	67.2	37.2	12.3	17.6
High school diploma or GED	15,659	100.0	33.4	66.6	33.0	16.2	17.3
Some college, no bachelor's degree	13,104	100.0	45.0	55.0	30.6	15.1	9.3
Bachelor's degree or higher	11,901	100.0	46.0	54.0	36.9	11.6	5.5
Percent of poverty level ²							
0–149%	9,744	100.0	39.4	60.6	30.3	14.1	16.1
0–99%	5,790	100.0	38.6	61.4	28.0	13.7	19.5
150–299%	13,282	100.0	41.3	58.7	31.8	12.8	14.0
300% or higher	23,992	100.0	39.0	61.0	36.4	15.1	9.5
Importance of religion							
Very important	23,586	100.0	57.6	42.4	24.6	8.3	9.4
Somewhat important	20,010	100.0	50.5	49.5	29.8	10.6	9.0
Not important	17,466	100.0	43.2	56.8	30.6	15.8	10.4

¹Includes men of other or multiple race and origin groups and men with missing information on number of cohabiting partners, nativity, or importance of religion.

²Limited to men aged 22–44 at time of interview. GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

NOTE: Percentages with 1, 2, or 3 or more cohabiting partners may not add to percent "ever cohabited" due to rounding or due to missing information on numbers of cohabiting partners.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 6 (2002).

Table 13. Number of women aged 15–44 and percent distribution by cohabitation status relative to first marriage, according to selected characteristics: United States, 2002

Characteristic	Number in thousands	Total	Cohabitation status relative to first marriage				
			Never married or cohabited	Cohabitation only	Marriage only	Premarital cohabitation	Postmarital cohabitation
			Percent distribution				
Total ¹	61,561	100.0	26.7	15.1	23.3	28.1	6.9
Age							
15–19 years	9,834	100.0	86.7	10.9	1.5	0.8	*
20–24 years	9,840	100.0	44.5	28.2	12.4	14.6	0.3
25–44 years	41,887	100.0	8.4	13.0	30.9	37.6	10.0
25–29 years	9,249	100.0	14.9	25.0	24.2	33.6	2.4
30–34 years	10,272	100.0	8.8	13.6	28.0	44.2	5.4
35–39 years	10,853	100.0	6.3	10.4	32.4	39.8	11.1
40–44 years	11,512	100.0	4.9	5.2	37.7	33.0	19.3
Hispanic origin and race							
Hispanic or Latina	9,107	100.0	23.3	18.8	27.9	24.7	5.3
Not Hispanic or Latina:							
White, single race	39,498	100.0	25.2	12.0	24.3	30.6	8.0
Black or African American, single race	8,250	100.0	36.6	24.1	12.3	22.2	4.8
Parity							
0 births	25,622	100.0	58.2	17.0	10.0	13.1	1.7
1 or more births	35,938	100.0	4.2	13.7	32.8	38.8	10.6
Parental living arrangements at age 14							
Two biological or adoptive parents	49,939	100.0	26.5	13.1	26.0	28.0	6.5
Other	11,622	100.0	27.6	23.8	11.7	28.4	8.6
Education ²							
No high school diploma or GED	5,627	100.0	7.8	24.4	22.9	36.1	8.8
High school diploma or GED	14,264	100.0	7.5	17.5	24.0	37.1	13.9
Some college, no bachelor's degree	14,279	100.0	11.6	13.3	30.2	36.4	8.6
Bachelor's degree or higher	13,551	100.0	17.8	10.5	35.9	32.1	3.8
Percent of poverty level ²							
0–149%	13,028	100.0	12.0	23.4	25.0	31.1	8.5
0–99%	8,183	100.0	12.7	24.8	24.2	30.5	7.9
150–299%	13,456	100.0	10.6	14.0	30.5	34.0	11.0
300% or higher	21,237	100.0	12.1	10.6	30.8	38.8	7.7
Importance of religion							
Very important	30,556	100.0	25.1	11.5	31.7	24.7	7.0
Somewhat important	19,020	100.0	28.9	15.5	18.0	30.3	7.3
Not important	11,852	100.0	27.4	23.7	9.9	33.1	5.9

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

¹Includes women of other or multiple race and origin groups and women with missing information on importance of religion.²Limited to women aged 22–44 at time of interview. GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

NOTE: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 6 (2002).

Table 14. Number of men aged 15–44 and percent distribution by cohabitation status relative to first marriage, according to selected characteristics: United States, 2002

Characteristic	Number in thousands	Total	Cohabitation status relative to first marriage				
			Never married or cohabited	Cohabitation only	Marriage only	Premarital cohabitation	Postmarital cohabitation
Total ¹	61,147	100.0	32.8	16.5	18.4	28.3	4.0
Age							
15–19 years	10,208	100.0	94.2	5.1	*	0.4	–
20–24 years	9,883	100.0	55.8	27.5	10.4	6.3	*
25–44 years	41,056	100.0	12.0	16.7	24.8	40.6	5.9
25–29 years	9,226	100.0	20.4	29.8	21.1	27.6	1.1
30–34 years	10,138	100.0	12.4	17.5	25.3	42.4	2.4
35–39 years	10,557	100.0	9.0	12.8	26.4	46.2	5.6
40–44 years	11,135	100.0	7.7	8.9	25.9	44.3	13.3
Hispanic origin and race							
Hispanic or Latino	10,188	100.0	30.1	20.2	22.7	24.2	2.8
Not Hispanic or Latino:							
White, single race	38,738	100.0	32.2	14.6	18.4	30.1	4.7
Black or African American, single race	6,940	100.0	36.6	21.7	10.8	28.0	3.0
Number of biological children							
None	32,593	100.0	60.3	19.4	7.1	12.3	0.9
1 or more	28,554	100.0	1.5	13.3	31.2	46.6	7.5
Parental living arrangements at age 14							
Two biological or adoptive parents	50,596	100.0	33.0	15.7	19.3	27.8	4.2
Other	10,551	100.0	31.9	20.4	13.7	30.9	3.1
Education ²							
No high school diploma or GED	6,355	100.0	11.6	24.9	21.2	36.8	5.6
High school diploma or GED	15,659	100.0	11.7	19.3	21.7	39.0	8.2
Some college, no bachelor's degree	13,104	100.0	22.1	19.2	23.0	31.3	4.5
Bachelor's degree or higher	11,901	100.0	18.2	13.5	27.8	38.9	1.7
Percent of poverty level ²							
0–149%	9,744	100.0	16.3	22.6	23.1	33.6	4.4
0–99%	5,790	100.0	17.9	26.4	20.8	29.6	5.4
150–299%	13,282	100.0	15.4	18.7	26.0	33.8	6.3
300% or higher	23,992	100.0	16.7	16.8	22.3	39.3	4.9
Importance of religion							
Very important	23,586	100.0	28.3	13.3	29.3	25.9	3.2
Somewhat important	20,010	100.0	36.4	14.8	14.1	29.7	5.0
Not important	17,466	100.0	34.9	22.9	8.3	30.1	3.8

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

– Quantity zero.

¹Includes men of other or multiple race and origin groups and men with missing information on importance of religion.²Limited to men aged 22–44 at time of interview. GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

NOTE: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 6 (2002).

Table 15. Number of currently married or cohabiting women and men aged 15–44 and percent distribution by selected spouse or partner characteristics: United States, 2002

Number in thousands	Women		Men	
	Currently married	Currently cohabiting	Currently married	Currently cohabiting
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Age				
Spouse or partner is older	67.0	69.2	26.9	33.4
1–3 years older	35.7	31.8	16.7	20.5
4–6 years older	16.5	15.9	5.9	5.3
7 or more years older	14.7	21.5	4.3	7.7
Same age	12.9	9.1	14.0	13.4
Spouse or partner is younger	20.2	21.7	59.2	53.2
1–3 years younger	12.9	13.7	34.3	28.0
4–6 years younger	5.0	5.0	16.3	13.2
7 or more years younger	2.3	2.9	8.6	12.0
Race and Hispanic origin				
Same	87.0	81.3	87.7	81.8
Different	13.0	18.7	12.4	18.2
Education				
Spouse or partner has more education	25.3	27.7	29.5	29.0
Same education	50.7	45.7	49.6	48.1
Spouse or partner has less education	24.0	26.6	20.8	23.0
Spouse or partner's employment status				
Employed	92.1	84.6	68.2	66.9
Not employed	7.9	15.4	31.8	33.1
Spouse or partner was married before				
Yes	20.1	31.7	20.8	27.6
No.	79.9	68.3	79.2	72.4
Spouse or partner has children from previous relationship				
Yes	18.6	32.3	21.2	36.3
No.	81.4	67.7	78.8	63.7

NOTE: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 6 (2002).

Table 16. Probability that a first marriage will remain intact (survive) at specified durations, by selected characteristics and with standard errors, for women aged 15–44: United States, 2002

Characteristic	1 year		3 years		5 years		10 years	
	Probability of survival	SE	Probability of survival	SE	Probability of survival	SE	Probability of survival	SE
Total ¹	0.94	0.004	0.85	0.006	0.78	0.008	0.64	0.015
Hispanic origin and race								
Hispanic or Latina	0.95	0.005	0.86	0.008	0.80	0.010	0.68	0.017
Non-Hispanic white, single race	0.95	0.005	0.86	0.008	0.78	0.011	0.64	0.019
Non-Hispanic black or African American, single race.	0.92	0.012	0.81	0.018	0.73	0.026	0.51	0.025
Education ²								
No high school diploma or GED	0.92	0.011	0.82	0.015	0.74	0.020	0.63	0.022
High school diploma or GED	0.93	0.008	0.83	0.011	0.73	0.015	0.54	0.031
Some college, no bachelor's degree	0.94	0.006	0.84	0.011	0.77	0.013	0.62	0.019
Bachelor's degree or higher.	0.97	0.004	0.91	0.007	0.86	0.010	0.78	0.015
Parental living arrangements at age 14								
Two biological or adoptive parents.	0.95	0.004	0.86	0.006	0.79	0.008	0.67	0.012
Other.	0.93	0.008	0.82	0.019	0.72	0.021	0.48	0.045
Age at first marriage								
Under 20 years	0.91	0.008	0.78	0.015	0.68	0.018	0.54	0.022
20–25 years	0.95	0.005	0.86	0.007	0.79	0.010	0.64	0.021
26 years and over.	0.96	0.006	0.92	0.007	0.86	0.009	0.76	0.019
Parity at time of first marriage								
0 births	0.95	0.004	0.87	0.006	0.80	0.009	0.65	0.017
1 or more births	0.91	0.011	0.77	0.015	0.67	0.016	0.55	0.020
Timing of first birth relative to first marriage								
No birth during first marriage	0.85	0.010	0.69	0.013	0.54	0.017	0.34	0.018
Birth before marriage	0.91	0.011	0.77	0.015	0.67	0.016	0.55	0.020
Birth during marriage	0.99	0.001	0.94	0.006	0.88	0.009	0.74	0.019
0–7 months after	0.97	0.006	0.85	0.019	0.72	0.027	0.54	0.033
8 or more months after	1.00	0.001	0.96	0.005	0.92	0.008	0.79	0.021
Ever cohabited before first marriage								
Yes	0.94	0.005	0.84	0.008	0.75	0.009	0.60	0.012
No	0.95	0.005	0.87	0.008	0.80	0.011	0.66	0.020
Cohabited premaritally with first husband								
Yes	0.94	0.005	0.84	0.009	0.76	0.010	0.61	0.011
No	0.95	0.005	0.87	0.009	0.79	0.011	0.66	0.019
Engaged to first husband when premarital cohabitation began								
Yes	0.94	0.005	0.86	0.008	0.79	0.009	0.65	0.013
No	0.94	0.005	0.80	0.011	0.71	0.014	0.55	0.015
First husband ever married before this marriage								
Yes	0.93	0.012	0.84	0.014	0.73	0.017	0.60	0.022
No	0.95	0.004	0.86	0.007	0.78	0.009	0.64	0.016
First husband had any children from previous relationships when they married								
Yes	0.92	0.010	0.76	0.016	0.69	0.016	0.54	0.022
No	0.95	0.004	0.87	0.006	0.79	0.008	0.65	0.015
First husband's race and Hispanic origin								
Same as wife.	0.95	0.004	0.86	0.006	0.79	0.009	0.65	0.015
Different from wife.	0.90	0.014	0.79	0.017	0.68	0.019	0.54	0.021

¹Includes women of other or multiple race and origin groups and women with missing information on other characteristics shown.²Limited to women aged 22–44 at time of interview. GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

NOTE: SE is standard error.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 6 (2002).

Table 17. Probability that a first marriage will remain intact (survive) at specified durations, by selected characteristics and with standard errors, for men aged 15–44: United States, 2002

Characteristic	1 year		3 years		5 years		10 years	
	Probability of survival	SE	Probability of survival	SE	Probability of survival	SE	Probability of survival	SE
Total ¹	0.94	0.006	0.84	0.008	0.78	0.008	0.66	0.009
Hispanic origin and race								
Hispanic or Latino	0.95	0.008	0.87	0.009	0.82	0.011	0.75	0.014
Non-Hispanic white, single race	0.94	0.007	0.84	0.013	0.77	0.012	0.64	0.012
Non-Hispanic black or African American, single race.	0.94	0.011	0.82	0.024	0.74	0.022	0.51	0.036
Education ²								
No high school diploma or GED	0.90	0.009	0.79	0.013	0.71	0.021	0.61	0.024
High school diploma or GED	0.94	0.012	0.81	0.016	0.74	0.015	0.56	0.021
Some college, no bachelor's degree	0.94	0.007	0.83	0.021	0.78	0.021	0.64	0.026
Bachelor's degree or higher.	0.97	0.013	0.92	0.015	0.88	0.016	0.81	0.017
Parental living arrangements at age 14								
Two biological or adoptive parents.	0.94	0.006	0.85	0.010	0.79	0.009	0.66	0.011
Other.	0.93	0.019	0.81	0.029	0.73	0.030	0.63	0.030
Age at first marriage								
Under 20 years	0.84	0.028	0.64	0.031	0.55	0.029	0.47	0.029
20–25 years	0.94	0.007	0.84	0.012	0.78	0.012	0.65	0.015
26 years and over.	0.97	0.008	0.91	0.009	0.87	0.011	0.73	0.015
Number of biological children at time of first marriage								
None	0.95	0.007	0.84	0.009	0.78	0.009	0.65	0.010
1 or more	0.91	0.017	0.83	0.020	0.81	0.021	0.65	0.028
Timing of first child's birth to first marriage								
No birth during first marriage	0.87	0.015	0.64	0.021	0.52	0.020	0.37	0.023
Birth before marriage	0.91	0.017	0.83	0.020	0.81	0.021	0.65	0.028
Birth during marriage	0.98	0.006	0.92	0.010	0.87	0.011	0.74	0.013
0–7 months after	0.91	0.026	0.77	0.048	0.69	0.047	*	*
8 or more months after	1.00	0.000	0.96	0.008	0.91	0.009	0.79	0.012
Ever cohabited before first marriage								
Yes	0.94	0.008	0.84	0.013	0.77	0.013	0.62	0.015
No	0.94	0.008	0.84	0.015	0.78	0.016	0.69	0.017
Cohabited premaritally with first wife								
Yes	0.95	0.008	0.85	0.015	0.78	0.016	0.63	0.017
No	0.95	0.008	0.85	0.016	0.79	0.017	0.69	0.018
Engaged to first wife when premarital cohabitation began								
Yes	0.96	0.004	0.90	0.006	0.82	0.010	0.71	0.015
No	0.94	0.014	0.78	0.021	0.72	0.020	0.53	0.017
First wife ever married before this marriage								
Yes	0.96	0.009	0.84	0.028	0.74	0.030	*	*
No	0.94	0.007	0.85	0.012	0.80	0.012	0.69	0.014
First wife had any children from previous relationships when they married								
Yes	0.93	0.020	0.79	0.028	0.71	0.028	*	*
No	0.95	0.006	0.86	0.012	0.80	0.012	0.70	0.014
First wife's race and Hispanic origin								
Same as husband.	0.95	0.006	0.85	0.011	0.80	0.011	0.68	0.014
Different from husband.	0.94	0.022	0.83	0.032	0.73	0.035	0.59	0.046

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

¹Includes men of other or multiple race and origin groups and men with missing information on other characteristics shown.²Limited to men aged 22–44 at time of interview. GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

NOTE: SE is standard error.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 6 (2002).

Table 18. Probability that a first cohabitation will remain intact (survive without marriage or disruption) for 1, 3, and 5 years, by selected characteristics and with standard errors, for women aged 15–44: United States, 2002

Characteristic	1 year		3 years		5 years	
	Probability of survival	SE	Probability of survival	SE	Probability of survival	SE
Total ¹	0.65	0.007	0.31	0.009	0.16	0.007
Hispanic origin and race						
Hispanic or Latina	0.71	0.009	0.44	0.013	0.30	0.012
Non-Hispanic white, single race	0.61	0.010	0.26	0.011	0.12	0.009
Non-Hispanic black or African American, single race	0.75	0.013	0.46	0.019	0.26	0.020
Education ²						
No high school diploma or GED	0.68	0.015	0.43	0.016	0.28	0.014
High school diploma or GED	0.67	0.015	0.32	0.015	0.16	0.012
Some college, no bachelor's degree	0.64	0.014	0.31	0.015	0.16	0.012
Bachelor's degree or higher	0.61	0.015	0.21	0.017	0.09	0.013
Parental living arrangements at age 14						
Two biological or adoptive parents	0.63	0.007	0.29	0.010	0.16	0.008
Other	0.72	0.018	0.37	0.020	0.20	0.013
Age at first cohabitation						
Under 20 years	0.65	0.013	0.32	0.012	0.17	0.009
20–25 years	0.65	0.011	0.30	0.013	0.14	0.009
26 years and over	0.64	0.022	0.32	0.024	0.20	0.024
Timing of cohabitation relative to first marriage						
Before first marriage	0.65	0.007	0.30	0.008	0.16	0.006
After first marriage	0.68	0.025	0.36	0.038	0.20	0.030
Parity at time of first cohabitation						
0 births	0.64	0.008	0.28	0.008	0.14	0.006
1 or more births	0.69	0.017	0.40	0.026	0.23	0.021
Timing of first birth relative to first cohabitation						
Never had a birth or first birth occurred after cohabitation	0.57	0.009	0.20	0.009	0.08	0.006
Birth before cohabitation	0.69	0.017	0.40	0.026	0.23	0.021
Birth during cohabitation	0.91	0.015	0.62	0.016	0.39	0.016

¹Includes women of other or multiple race and origin groups and women with missing information on other characteristics shown.²Limited to women aged 22–44 at time of interview. GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

NOTE: SE is standard error.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 6 (2002).

Table 19. Probability that a first cohabitation will remain intact (survive without marriage or dissolution) for 1, 3, and 5 years, by selected characteristics and with standard errors, for men aged 15–44: United States, 2002

Characteristic	1 year		3 years		5 years	
	Probability of survival	SE	Probability of survival	SE	Probability of survival	SE
Total ¹	0.56	0.012	0.24	0.008	0.13	0.009
Hispanic origin and race						
Hispanic or Latino	0.68	0.016	0.41	0.017	0.27	0.017
Non-Hispanic white, single race	0.53	0.015	0.19	0.010	0.08	0.008
Non-Hispanic black or African American, single race	0.57	0.022	0.29	0.019	0.18	0.019
Education ²						
No high school diploma or GED.	0.60	0.019	0.38	0.020	0.27	0.019
High school diploma or GED.	0.58	0.021	0.29	0.020	0.15	0.019
Some college, no bachelor's degree	0.55	0.026	0.19	0.016	*	*
Bachelor's degree or higher	0.50	0.021	0.13	0.014	*	*
Parental living arrangements at age 14						
Two biological or adoptive parents	0.55	0.013	0.24	0.010	0.12	0.009
Other	0.57	0.024	0.25	0.018	0.16	0.015
Age at first cohabitation						
Under 20 years	0.58	0.020	0.27	0.013	0.16	0.014
20–25 years	0.55	0.019	0.24	0.015	0.12	0.011
26 years and over	0.53	0.027	0.19	0.022	*	*
Number of biological children at time of first cohabitation						
None	0.56	0.013	0.24	0.009	0.12	0.009
1 or more	0.53	0.030	0.30	0.029	*	*
Timing of first birth relative to first cohabitation						
Never had a birth or first birth occurred after cohabitation	0.50	0.013	0.16	0.008	0.06	0.005
Birth before cohabitation	0.53	0.030	0.30	0.029	*	*
Birth during cohabitation	0.94	0.009	0.68	0.024	0.47	0.034

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

¹Includes men of other or multiple race and origin groups and men with missing information on other characteristics shown.²Limited to men aged 22–44 at time of interview. GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

NOTE: SE is standard error.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 6 (2002).

Table 20. Probability that a first cohabitation will transition to marriage in 1, 3, and 5 years, by selected characteristics, for women aged 15–44: United States, 2002

Characteristic	1 year		3 years		5 years	
	Probability	SE	Probability	SE	Probability	SE
Total ¹	0.24	0.006	0.51	0.011	0.65	0.010
Hispanic origin and race						
Hispanic or Latina	0.21	0.010	0.41	0.016	0.53	0.017
Non-Hispanic white, single race	0.27	0.009	0.59	0.015	0.73	0.013
Non-Hispanic black or African American, single race	0.14	0.011	0.31	0.019	0.46	0.026
Education ²						
No high school diploma or GED	0.20	0.013	0.37	0.016	0.49	0.021
High school diploma or GED	0.22	0.013	0.50	0.022	0.64	0.021
Some college, no bachelor's degree	0.25	0.013	0.51	0.017	0.67	0.018
Bachelor's degree or higher	0.28	0.013	0.64	0.021	0.79	0.020
Parental living arrangements at age 14						
Two biological or adoptive parents	0.26	0.007	0.54	0.010	0.68	0.010
Other	0.15	0.014	0.42	0.032	0.56	0.029
Age at first cohabitation						
Under 20 years	0.20	0.011	0.43	0.013	0.58	0.015
20–25 years	0.25	0.011	0.55	0.016	0.71	0.013
26 years and over	0.29	0.020	0.58	0.034	0.66	0.031
Timing of cohabitation relative to first marriage						
Before first marriage	0.23	0.006	0.51	0.009	0.65	0.009
After first marriage	0.25	0.024	0.54	0.050	0.68	0.045
Parity at time of first cohabitation						
0 births	0.24	0.007	0.53	0.009	0.68	0.010
1 or more births	0.21	0.016	0.46	0.034	0.59	0.032
Timing of first birth relative to first cohabitation						
Never had a birth or first birth occurred after cohabitation	0.29	0.009	0.62	0.012	0.77	0.010
Birth before cohabitation	0.21	0.016	0.46	0.034	0.59	0.032
Birth during cohabitation	0.06	0.012	0.23	0.015	0.39	0.019

¹Includes women of other or multiple race and origin groups and women with missing information on other characteristics shown.

²Limited to women aged 22–44 at time of interview. GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

NOTE: SE is standard error.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 6 (2002).

Table 21. Probability that a first cohabitation will transition to marriage in 1, 3, and 5 years, by selected characteristics, for men aged 15–44: United States, 2002

Characteristic	1 year		3 years		5 years	
	Probability	SE	Probability	SE	Probability	SE
Total ¹	0.25	0.012	0.51	0.014	0.65	0.016
Hispanic origin and race						
Hispanic or Latino	0.20	0.011	0.38	0.017	0.50	0.022
Non-Hispanic white, single race	0.28	0.016	0.59	0.020	0.73	0.022
Non-Hispanic black or African American, single race	0.14	0.024	0.38	0.042	0.52	0.044
Education ²						
No high school diploma or GED	0.20	0.019	0.34	0.029	0.48	0.031
High school diploma or GED	0.23	0.023	0.50	0.031	0.63	0.033
Some college, no bachelor's degree	0.21	0.030	0.56	0.030	*	*
Bachelor's degree or higher	0.34	0.024	0.68	0.028	*	*
Parental living arrangements at age 14						
Two biological or adoptive parents	0.26	0.014	0.53	0.017	0.66	0.019
Other	0.18	0.025	0.42	0.038	0.57	0.032
Age at first cohabitation						
Under 20 years	0.20	0.023	0.43	0.031	0.53	0.028
20–25 years	0.25	0.018	0.52	0.023	0.68	0.024
26 years and over	0.33	0.030	0.67	0.031	*	*
Number of biological children at time of first cohabitation						
None	0.24	0.012	0.51	0.015	0.66	0.017
1 or more	0.31	0.044	0.50	0.041	*	*
Timing of first birth relative to first cohabitation						
Never had a birth or first birth occurred after cohabitation	0.28	0.014	0.58	0.016	0.73	0.016
Birth before cohabitation	0.31	0.044	0.50	0.041	*	*
Birth during cohabitation	0.05	0.009	0.26	0.029	0.40	0.032

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

¹Includes men of other or multiple race and origin groups and men with missing information on other characteristics shown.²Limited to men aged 22–44 at time of interview. GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

NOTE: SE is standard error.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 6 (2002).

Appendix I

Technical Notes

Sample design and fieldwork procedures

Cycle 6 of the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) was based on 12,571 interviews with persons aged 15–44 (4,928 men and 7,643 women) in the household population of the United States. More than 250 female interviewers were hired and trained by the survey contractor, the University of Michigan’s Institute for Social Research, under the supervision of NCHS.

Interviewing occurred from March 2002 until the end of February 2003. The interviews were administered in person in the selected participants’ homes. The 2002 sample is a nationally representative multistage area probability sample drawn from 121 areas across the country. The sample is designed to produce national, not state, estimates.

Participants were selected for NSFG in five major steps:

1. Large areas (counties and cities) were chosen at random.
2. Within each large area or Primary Sampling Unit, groups of adjacent blocks called *segments* were chosen at random.
3. Within segments, addresses were listed, and some addresses were selected at random.
4. The selected addresses were visited in person, and a short “screener” interview was conducted to see if anyone aged 15–44 lived there.
5. If one or more qualified participants resided at the address, one person was chosen at random for the interview and was offered a chance to participate.

To protect the respondent’s privacy, only one person was interviewed in each selected household. In the 2002 survey, teenagers and black and Hispanic adults were sampled at higher rates than others.

The NSFG questionnaires and materials were reviewed and approved

by the CDC/NCHS Research Ethics Review Board (formerly known as an institutional review board, or IRB) and by a similar board at the University of Michigan. All procedures for the survey were reviewed and approved by the Office of Management and Budget. The female interview lasted an average of 85 minutes, and the male interview lasted an average of about 60 minutes.

All respondents were given written and oral information about the survey and were informed that participation was voluntary. Adult respondents aged 18–44 were asked to sign a consent form but were not required to do so. For minors aged 15–17, signed consent was required first from a parent or guardian, and then signed assent was required from the minor in order for the interview to be conducted. Respondents in the 2002 survey were offered \$40 as a token of appreciation for their participation. The overall response rate for the survey was about 79%–80% for women and 78% for men.

More detailed information about the methods and procedures of the 2002 NSFG, including imputation of recodes and variance estimation, is available in previous reports (34,35).

Statistical analysis

Statistics for this report were produced using SAS software, version 9.1 (<http://www.sas.com>). Standard errors were calculated, and tests of significance performed, for selected comparisons. Standard errors were calculated using the SUDAAN statistical package (<http://www.rti.org/sudaan>) because it takes into account the effects of complex sample designs. The significance of differences between subgroups was determined by two-tailed *t*-tests at the 5% level. No adjustments were made for multiple comparisons. Terms such as “greater than” and “less than” indicate that a statistically significant difference was found. Terms such as “similar” or “no difference” indicate that the statistics being compared were not significantly different. Lack of comment regarding the difference between any two statistics does not mean that significance was tested and ruled out.

Routing errors with marriage dissolution information

An error in the interview specifications for the 2002 NSFG resulted in a significant number of female respondents whose first marriage had ended being mistakenly skipped past questions on how and when their marriage ended. This routing error differentially affected females who reported that their husbands had children from previous relationships. As a result of this routing error, 509 women—roughly one-third of women whose first marriage had ended—had to have values imputed using multiple regression procedures for the century month when their first marriage ended (recode MARDIS01). Thus, the duration of first marriages used in the life table analysis for estimating the probability that a first marriage remains intact is calculated using these imputed values of the recode MARDIS01, along with the majority of values that were directly reported.

Analyses were done to examine whether the estimates of marriage duration produced using the more frequently imputed data from female respondents in the 2002 NSFG data were comparable with estimates produced from female respondents in the 1995 NSFG for marriages beginning in the same years. Comparable marriage dates from the 1995 and 2002 surveys were used to produce estimates of marriages that began during the same time period—specifically, July 1972 to September 1995.

Results of these analyses (Table I) indicate that the estimates of marital duration are comparable and that the large number of imputations in the 2002 data did not result in an over- or underestimation of the probabilities that women’s marriages would remain intact for a specified amount of time. The imputed marriage dissolution dates for women in Cycle 6 NSFG have also been used in analyses by other researchers who have concluded that the imputed estimates did not lead to biases in the estimates (41,42).

Table I. Probability that a first marriage (occurring between July 1972 and September 1995) will remain intact, by duration of marriage, for women aged 15–44: United States, 1995 and 2002

Duration	1995		2002	
	Probability	SE	Probability	SE
1 year	0.9534	0.0031	0.9435	0.0044
3 years	0.8529	0.0054	0.8477	0.0075
5 years	0.7799	0.0064	0.7689	0.0091

NOTE: SE is standard error.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 5 (1995) and Cycle 6 (2002).

Life table methodology and sample sizes

In studying union formation and dissolution (such as in marriages or cohabitations), the life table summarizes the union histories of a given cohort (in the case of the Cycle 6 NSFG, the cohorts are the unions of men and women aged 15–44 in 2002). As the duration of marriages and cohabitations grows, these unions are subjected to the dissolution rates specific to unions that have remained intact for that amount of time (e.g., those married for 6 years, 7 years, 8 years, etc.). At each interval, the duration-specific dissolution rate for that interval is used to calculate how many unions of the cohort fail (i.e., disrupt) during that interval. The number of unions that dissolve is subtracted from the count of unions in the cohort, and the result is the number of cohort unions that survive (i.e., remain intact) to go on to the next interval.

Because NSFG is limited to women and men aged 15–44, the lifetime marriage and cohabitation histories are incomplete. For respondents whose union has not ended as of the date of interview, the potential end date of the union is unknown, and it is not known how long the union will last; the duration of such unions is referred to in statistical literature as *censored*. Life table analysis can handle censored cases by keeping such cases in the analysis as long as they are at risk of experiencing the event and then dropping them out once the risk is unknown (4,43). For example, when calculating the proportion of marriages that disrupt in each duration interval, a marriage that has existed for 24 months and remains intact at interview would remain in the denominator for each duration interval until 24 months of duration is reached;

after that, the case would no longer be used in the calculations.

Survival estimates in this report predict the probability that a union will experience an event at a given time. Three events are studied: first marriage disruption, first cohabitation disruption, and transition to marriage from a first cohabitation. The life table analyses in this report take a life cycle approach to estimate the probabilities for women and men that

- A first marriage will remain intact.
- A first cohabitation will remain intact.
- A first cohabitation will transition to marriage.

For the probability that a first marriage will remain intact, the duration is measured from the start of the marriage until separation or divorce. Marriages that end in widowhood or are still intact at the time of interview are censored because (a) the time that the marriage would have endured is unknown because the spouse died or (b) the interview occurred before the first marriage ended.

This report based on 2002 NSFG data uses a different measure of cohabitation duration for analyses assessing the probability that a first cohabitation will remain intact than the

previous 1995 NSFG marriage report (4). Instead of calculating cohabitation duration from the start of cohabitation until the cohabitation disrupted (or, if married, until the marriage disrupted), cohabitation duration is simply measured from the start of cohabitation to the end of cohabitation (whether it ended through disruption or marriage). Cohabitations ending in the death of the partner are still considered intact at interview and are censored, although this was extremely rare in the NSFG sample. By measuring cohabitation duration in this way, it is possible to distinguish those whose cohabitations are of long duration and might be an alternative to marriage from those who have a short cohabitation and then marry. For the transition from first cohabitation to marriage, duration is measured from the start of the cohabitation to the start of marriage. Cohabitations that end through disruption or the death of the partner, or cohabitations that are still intact at the time of interview, are all censored.

Females

Estimates of the probability that a first marriage would remain intact were based on a sample of 4,126 women who had ever married. Estimates of the probability that a first cohabitation will remain intact without disrupting or transitioning to marriage were based on a sample of 3,904 women who had ever cohabited. Estimates of the probability that a first cohabitation would transition to marriage were also based on 3,904 women who had ever cohabited. Sample sizes for each of these independent variables, by race and ethnicity, are presented in [Table II](#).

Table II. NSFG sample sizes by race and Hispanic origin, for females: United States, 2002

Sample	Total	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic white	Non-Hispanic black	Non-Hispanic other
All women	7,643	1,589	4,038	1,471	545
First marriages	4,126	891	2,389	557	289
First cohabitations	3,904	815	2,058	783	248
First marriages that ended in:	1,550	299	878	266	107
Separation	260	89	85	65	21
Divorce	1,232	189	771	191	81
Death	58	21	22	10	5

NOTE: NSFG is National Survey of Family Growth.

Males

The sample sizes for the independent variables, by race and ethnicity, for males are presented in [Table III](#). The samples sizes used in estimating the probability that a first marriage would remain intact were based on a sample of 1,754 men who had ever been married. Estimates that a first cohabitation would remain intact without disruption or transitioning to marriage, and estimates that a first cohabitation would transition to marriage, were based on a sample of 2,115 men who had ever cohabited.

Table III. NSFG sample sizes by race and Hispanic origin, for males: United States, 2002

Sample	Total	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic white	Non-Hispanic black	Non-Hispanic other
All men	4,928	1,123	2,526	884	395
First marriages	1,754	460	892	282	120
First cohabitations	2,115	499	1,035	437	144
First marriages that ended in:	703	135	384	138	46
Separation	109	32	45	28	4
Divorce	582	103	333	105	41
Death	12	0	6	5	1

NOTE: NSFG is National Survey of Family Growth.

Appendix II

Definitions of Terms

ACASI—Audio computer-assisted self-interviewing (ACASI) is a data collection mode in which the respondent reads the question and response categories on a computer screen (or hears them through headphones) and then enters his or her response directly into the computer, providing greater privacy for the respondent.

Age—Age (recode = AGER) was classified based on the respondent's age at the time of interview. Sampled persons were eligible for the Cycle 6 NSFG if they were aged 15–44 at the time of the household screener visit. With the exception of a few respondents who may have turned 45 by the time of interview, all were still 15–44 at interview.

Censored—A case is termed censored if it is removed from the risk of an event before that event has occurred. For a marriage that is intact at interview, the eventual date of marital disruption is unknown, and it is therefore referred to as “censored by interview.” For a marriage that ended in widowhood, the eventual (possible) date of marital disruption had the spouse survived is unknown and it is referred to as “censored by widowhood.” For further explanation, see [Appendix I](#).

Century months—In the NSFG interview, dates of events were recorded as month and year (with the exception of the respondent's date of birth, which also recorded the day). In the data file, month and year for most dates reported in the interview were converted to “century months” by subtracting 1900 from the year, then multiplying the remainder by 12 and adding the number of the month, where January = 1, February = 2, and so on. For example, the century month code for March 1970 is $(70 \times 12) + 3 = 843$, and the century month code for January 2002 is $(102 \times 12) + 1 = 1225$.

Children fathered—The computed variable BIODKIDS indicates the number of biological children the male respondent had fathered as of the date he was interviewed. A man classified as “BIODKIDS = 0” had not reported fathering any children; a man with “BIODKIDS \geq 1” had fathered at least one child at the time of interview.

Cohabitation experiences—To reflect the cohabitation experience of respondents, variables were created that assessed whether respondents had ever cohabited, whether they had a premarital cohabitation with their first spouse, and whether they were engaged at the premarital cohabitation with their first spouse.

- **Ever cohabited**—Recode COHEVER was used to determine whether the respondent had ever cohabited. (See [Ever cohabited](#) for more details.)
- **Premarital cohabitation with first spouse**—Married respondents were asked, “*Some couples live together without being married. By living together, we mean having a sexual relationship while sharing the same usual address. Did you and your [husband/wife] live together before you got married?*” Respondents who indicated that they had lived together before their marriage were classified as having a premarital cohabitation with their first spouse.
- **Engaged at cohabitation**—Respondents who indicated that they had had a premarital cohabitation with their first spouse were asked, “*At the time you first [started/began] living together with [your husband/your wife], were you and [he/she] engaged to be married or did you have definite plans to get married?*” Respondents who answered “yes” were classified as being engaged at cohabitation. Those respondents who indicated that they had a premarital cohabitation but were not engaged at cohabitation were classified as not being engaged at cohabitation. The “engaged at cohabitation” question was only applicable to those who had had a premarital cohabitation with their first spouse.

Cohabitation status relative to marriage—The recode COHSTAT distinguishes three groups: “never cohabited outside of marriage,” “ever cohabited before first marriage” (premarital cohabitation), and “first cohabited after first marriage ended” (postmarital cohabitation). This report further distinguishes those who have never married or cohabited (recode = EVMARCOH) from those who have only cohabited but never married and those who have only married and never cohabited.

Education: Highest grade or degree—The recode HIEDUC is based on a series of questions that measure the highest degree received, as well as the grade or year of school completed at the time of interview. The education categories were defined as follows:

- **No high school diploma or GED**—The respondent had not received a high school degree, General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma (GED), or college diploma.
- **High school diploma or GED**—The highest degree the respondent had obtained was a high school diploma or GED, and the respondent's highest completed grade of school was 12 or lower.
- **Some college, no bachelor's degree**—The highest degree the respondent obtained was a high school diploma or GED, but the highest grade of school completed was higher than 12, or the highest degree was an associate's degree.
- **Bachelor's degree or higher**—The respondent reported having a college or university degree at the bachelor's level or higher, regardless of the highest grade completed.

In some instances, the “Some college, no bachelor's degree” and “Bachelor's degree or higher” categories were collapsed to “More than high school diploma or GED” because of sample sizes.

The tables in this report show data by education only for respondents aged 22–44 at interview because larger percentages of respondents aged 15–21 are still attending school. Using the full

age range of 15–44 would potentially underestimate the percentage of women with a college degree.

Ever married—The computed variable EVRMARRY indicates whether the respondent has ever been married. It is based on two directly asked questions: AB-1 MARSTAT and AB-2 FMARSTAT. MARSTAT determines the respondent’s marital or cohabiting status, including a category for “never been married.” For those who report on MARSTAT that they are currently cohabiting, FMARSTAT is a follow-up question asked to determine their formal marital status. Those who report “never been married” on either MARSTAT or FMARSTAT are coded “no” on EVRMARRY; all others are considered to have ever been legally married.

Ever cohabited—The recode COHEVER was used to indicate whether the respondent has ever cohabited outside of marriage. This recode was based on interview questions that asked about all cohabitations, including premarital and postmarital cohabitations.

First cohabitation duration—Cohabitation duration was calculated as the number of months from the beginning of cohabitation to the date that the cohabitating relationship ended (either through disruption or marriage). If the cohabitation had not disrupted or transitioned to marriage by the date of the interview (censored cases), cohabitation duration was calculated as the number of months from the beginning of cohabitation to the date of interview.

First marriage duration—The duration of first marriage was calculated as the number of months between the beginning of first marriage and the date of separation or divorce. If the first marriage had not dissolved by separation or divorce by the date of the interview (censored cases), the duration of first marriage was calculated as the number of months between the beginning of first marriage and the date of interview.

Hispanic origin and race—Hispanic origin and race are based on recode HISPRACE and raw variable NUMRACE. HISPRACE classifies respondents as Hispanic, non-Hispanic white, non-Hispanic black, or non-Hispanic other race, based on two other recoded variables, HISPANIC and RACE. All respondents who answered “yes” to the following question were coded as Hispanic: “*Are you Hispanic or [Latino/Latina], or of Spanish origin?*”

The RACE recode was based on responses to the following question: “*Which of the groups (below) describe your racial background? Please select one or more groups.*”

The race groups offered were as follows:

- American Indian or Alaska Native.
- Asian.
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.
- Black or African American.
- White.

After reporting their Hispanic origin, respondents could report as many races as might apply. The Office of Management and Budget guidelines on the classification of race require statistical reports to separate those who reported only one race from those who reported more than one race. Large data sets such as the U.S. Census, the National Vital Statistics System, and other very large surveys can produce reliable statistics on multiple-race respondents. Unfortunately, the 2002 NSFG sample size of 7,643 female respondents and 4,928 male respondents cannot produce reliable statistics for very small subgroups, such as multiple-race respondents. However, to establish a baseline for future reports that use the new racial classification, data using this classification are shown in this report. Respondents who reported only one race were classified based on the HISPRACE recode described above. All non-Hispanic respondents who reported more than one race are included in the totals but cannot be shown separately due to sample size.

The following categories are shown in this report:

- Hispanic or Latina/Latino.
- Not Hispanic or Latina/Latino:
 - White, single race.
 - Black or African American, single race.
 - Other.

Because of their limited sample size, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander respondents also were not shown as separate categories in this report. These groups are included in the totals of all tables. They are included in the Hispanic category if they reported being of Hispanic origin as well, and they are included in “non-Hispanic, other races” if they did not report being of Hispanic origin.

Importance of religion—This indicator was based on the raw variable RELDLIFE, which contained responses to the question, “*Currently, how important is religion in your daily life? Would you say it is very important, somewhat important, or not important?*” Possible responses to this question were as follows:

- Very important.
- Somewhat important.
- Not important.

This question was asked only of respondents who had reported a current religious affiliation (as indicated by the raw variable RELNOW). Respondents who did not report a current religious affiliation were classified in the “not important” category. Respondents who responded “don’t know” or “refused” were excluded.

Life table—A statistical methodology that estimates probabilities of an event (e.g., death) at each duration of exposure (or time interval). Life tables were adapted for marital and cohabitation stability analysis to estimate probabilities that an individual relationship will “survive” or not experience a dissolution event given that the relationship has remained intact a certain amount of time (e.g., 5 years or 10 years). For further definition of life table, see the [Methods](#) section.

Marital or cohabiting status at interview—The recode RMARITAL variable, sometimes referred to as “informal marital status,” is based on the following question in the interview: “*Now I’d like to ask about your marital status. Please look at Card 1. What is your current marital status?*” Possible responses to this question were

- Married.
- Not married but living together with a partner of the opposite sex.
- Widowed.
- Divorced.
- Separated because you and your spouse are not getting along.
- Never been married.

Those who responded “not married but living together with a partner of the opposite sex” are shown in this report as “currently cohabiting.” Those respondents who were either currently “married” or “living together with a partner of the opposite sex” were classified as being in a “union.” In some instances, those who were widowed, divorced, or separated are grouped as “formerly or previously married.”

Nativity—The raw variable BRNOUT was used to determine nativity or whether the respondent was born outside of the United States. Respondents were asked, “*Were you born outside the United States?*” “The United States” was defined as including the 50 states, Washington, D.C., and U.S. possessions and territories such as Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Number of spouses/cohabiting partners—The recode FMARNO, which measures the number of times a respondent has been married (including the current marriage), was used to determine the number of spouses respondents had had thus far in their lives. The number of cohabiting partners a respondent had by the time of interview was determined by summing the number of premarital cohabitations, the number of cohabitations that did not lead to marriage (nonmarital cohabitations), and, if applicable, the current cohabitation.

Parental living arrangements at age 14—The recode PARAGE14 indicates the presence and relationship to the respondent of male and female parents or parental figures living in the respondent’s household when the respondent was age 14. The recode is based on two separate questions asking about the male and female parent or parent figure with whom the respondent lived when he or she was age 14. For this report, the categories of the recode PARAGE14 were combined as (a) both biological parents or adoptive parents or a biological parent and an adoptive parent or stepparent and (b) other parental situation or a nonparental situation.

Parity—The PARITY recode indicates the number of live-born children the woman has ever had. For example, a woman classified as “PARITY = 0” has never had a live birth; “PARITY = 1” means she has had one live birth. Multiple births (e.g., twins) are counted as separate births, although they represent a single pregnancy.

Poverty level at interview—Recode POVERTY indicates the poverty level at the time of interview. The poverty index ratio (or percentage of poverty level, as it is labeled in the tables) was calculated by dividing the total family income by the weighted average threshold income of families whose head of household was under age 65, based on the 2001 poverty levels defined by the U.S. Census Bureau (44). This definition of poverty status takes into account the number of persons in the family. Total family income includes income from all sources for all members of the respondent’s family.

For example, for a family of four in 2001, the Census Bureau poverty level was \$18,104. Thus, if the respondent’s family had an income of \$40,000, its poverty level would be $(\$40,000/\$18,104) \times 100$, or 220%, and the respondent would be classified in the category “150%–299%.” That is, their household income is 150%–299% of the poverty level for a family of their size.

The tables in this report show data by percent of poverty level for respondents aged 22–44 at interview

because reports of income by younger respondents are likely to be less accurate. One reason is that younger respondents are more likely to be trying to report the income of their parent(s) and less likely to be contributors to family income themselves. For 1,044 of the 12,571 respondents (8.3%), total family income at the date of interview in NSFG Cycle 6 was not ascertained and was imputed.

Spouse or cohabiting partner’s characteristics—Respondents provided information pertaining to the characteristics of their first and/or current spouse or partner. Demographic characteristics such as date of birth, race and Hispanic origin, education, whether they had been married previously, and whether they had children from previous relationships were collected.

Spouse or cohabiting partner’s age—Current spouse and partner ages were constructed using information provided by respondents on the date of birth of their current spouse or cohabiting partner. For women, current husbands’ and partners’ ages were calculated as the number of months between the date of interview and the date of husband/partner birth, divided by 12 and truncated to the integer value (e.g., $\text{INT}((\text{CMINTVW} - \text{CMDOBCH})/12)$). For men, the corresponding computed variable (CWPAGE) was used for the current wife or partner’s age. The ages of the current spouse or partner were then subtracted from the respondent’s age to create age differences.

Spouse or cohabiting partner’s education—The education of the respondent’s current spouse or partner was determined by asking, “*Please look at Card 11. What is the highest level of education [husband/curr cohab partner] has completed?*” The response categories were as follows:

- Less than high school.
- High school graduate or GED.
- Some college but no degree.
- 2-year college degree (e.g., associate’s degree).
- 4-year college graduate (e.g., B.A., B.S.).
- Graduate or professional school.

Education categories were classified to match the classification schema of the respondent's education (see [Education](#)). The categories "some college but no degree" and "2-year college degree" were combined to create the "Some college, no bachelor's degree" category, and the "4-year college graduate" and "graduate or professional school" categories were combined to create the "Bachelor's degree or higher" category. Current spouse's or partner's education was then compared with the respondent's education to determine whether the respondent had more education, the same education, or less education than his or her current spouse or partner.

Spouse or cohabiting partner's employment status—Current spouse or partner's employment status was determined using the computed variable SPWRKST. Respondents were asked, "Please look at the Card 82/81. Last week, what was [CHPNAME] doing? Was [he/she] working, keeping house, going to school, or something else?" Possible responses were as follows:

- Working.
- Not working at job due to temporary illness, vacation, strike, etc.
- On paternity/maternity or family leave from job.
- Unemployed, laid off, or looking for work.
- Keeping house.
- Taking care of family.
- Going to school.
- On permanent disability.
- Something else.

Respondents who chose responses the first three responses were classified as having a spouse or partner who was employed. All other responses were classified as having a spouse or partner who was not employed.

Spouse or cohabiting partner's former marital experience—Raw female variables MARBEFH and CPMARBEF, and raw male variable CWPMBEF, were used to determine if the respondent's current spouse or partner had ever married before the

union. The respective questions read:

"At the time you and he/she were married, had [husband/wife] been married before?"

and

"Has [current partner] ever been married?"

Affirmative answers on either of these questions indicated that the current spouse or partner had been married before the marriage or cohabitation began.

Spouse or cohabiting partner's Hispanic origin and race—The same classification used for the respondent's Hispanic origin and race (see [Hispanic origin and race](#)) was used for the Hispanic origin of the first spouse and/or partner and the current spouse or partner. The race/ethnicity of the respondent was then compared with the race/ethnicity of his or her spouse or partner to determine whether they were of the same race/ethnicity. Note that members of Hispanic couples were compared to determine whether they were of the same ethnicity. It is possible that couples involving Hispanic and non-Hispanic persons could have identified as the same race (e.g., white or black) but have different ethnicities.

Spouse or cohabiting partner's children from previous relationships—In both the male and female surveys, currently married or cohabiting respondents were asked whether their current spouses or partners had any children from previous relationships. In the female survey, this information is drawn from the appropriate variable from the KIDSHX array corresponding to the current husband or from the CPKIDS variable for the current cohabiting partner. The KIDSHX question reads:

"When you and he got married, did he have any children, either biological or adopted, from any previous relationships?"

The CPKIDS question reads:

"When you and [current partner] first began living together, did he have any children, either biological or adopted, from any previous relationships?"

In the male survey, the variable CWPOTKID is used.

"Now I would like to ask you about any other children, whether biological, adopted, foster or legally guarded children, that [wife/current partner] may have had. Please be sure to include all of her children, even if they never lived with you."

"When you began living with [wife/current partner], did she have any other children?"

An affirmative answer on any of these questions meant that the current spouse or current partner had a child or children from previous relationships at the start of the union.

Timing of first birth relative to union (first cohabitation, first marriage)—For respondents who had not had a first birth or had not fathered any children at the time of interview (female PARITY = 0 or male BOKIDS = 0), the timing variable was classified as having "no first birth." Respondents who gave birth to or fathered their first child before their first marriage or cohabitation (DATBABY1 < MARDAT01 or DATBABY1 < COHAB1) were classified as having their first birth "before marriage" or "before cohabitation." If the first birth occurred on or after the respondent's first marriage or cohabitation and before the first marriage or cohabitation ended (if first marriage or first cohabitation dissolved), then the birth was classified as occurring "during marriage" or "during cohabitation." The "during marriage" category was further classified into births occurring "0–7 months after marriage" and "8 or more months after marriage," to account for possible preunion conceptions. Births that occurred 0–7 months after marriage were considered as premarital conceptions. First births that occurred after the first marriage or first cohabitation dissolved were not included in the analyses.

Transition to marriage—The duration of the transition from cohabitation to marriage is measured as the number of

months between the date of the beginning of the first premarital cohabitation and the date of the first marriage. If the first cohabitation remained intact by the date of the interview, or if the first cohabitation disrupted without transitioning to marriage (censored cases), the duration of the transition was measured as the number of months between the date of the beginning of the first cohabitation and the date of interview or date of first cohabitation disruption, respectively.

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