**Change in Stability of Premarital Cohabitation, 1980-2009**

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### Background
- Remarkable increase in prevalence of cohabitation in the past quarter century
- Cohabitation in the US is short-lived
- Half of all first premarital cohabitations among women aged 15-44 dissolve within 22 months (Copen et al. 2013)
- Reduced selection - diffusion perspective (Leibbroer & Dourleijn 2006; Manning & Cohen 2012)

### The Present Study
- Expanded interval between the cohabiting cohorts
- Utilizes more recent data (2011-2013 NSFG)
- Shifts in the duration of cohabitation based on presence of children, race/ethnicity, and education

### Data and Sample
- The National Survey of Family Growth
- Cycle 4 (1988) and the 2011-2013 interview

### Method
- Multiple decrement life tables
- Discrete-time multinomial logistic regression
- Outcome of first premarital cohabitation (0 = intact, 1 = marriage, 2 = dissolution)

### Probability of Survival and Dissolution of First Premarital Cohabitation within Five Years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Intact (%)</th>
<th>Married (%)</th>
<th>Separated (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1980-1984</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-2009</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Presence of Children and Outcomes of First Premarital Cohabitation within Five Years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Intact (%)</th>
<th>Married (%)</th>
<th>Separated (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1980-1984</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-2009</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Race/Ethnicity and Outcomes of First Premarital Cohabitation within Five Years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Hispanic (%)</th>
<th>White (%)</th>
<th>Black (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1980-1984</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-2009</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Education and Outcomes of First Premarital Cohabitation within Five Years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Some college (%)</th>
<th>College/more (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1980-1984</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-2009</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Multivariate Results

#### Dependent Variables
- Transition Out of First Premarital Cohabiting Unions

#### Independent Variables
- Marital Cohabitation
- Age at First Cohabitation
- Metropolitan area
- Lives in intact family
- Education (<HS = 0)
- Hispanic
- Black
- White
- Non-Black
- College degree
- Some college
- College/more
- Age at 14
- Lives in urban area
- Relationship
- Parity
- Parity at First Cohabitation

### Conclusion
- Recent cohabitations last longer than those formed 30 years ago (on average 27.7 months)
- The lengthening of cohabitation results mostly from the declining rate of transitioning to marriage
- Cohabitations with children last longer than those without children
- Blacks and Whites are similarly likely to remain together, Blacks more often remain cohabiting and Whites transition into marriage
- Increasing education divergence in the stability of cohabiting unions

### Next Steps
- Explain the shift in cohabitation stability
- Explore the stability of postmarital cohabitation
- Integrate serial cohabitation into analyses

### Implications
- Institutionalization of cohabitation
- Evolving relationship between cohabitation and marriage
- Shifting implications of cohabitation for child outcomes

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