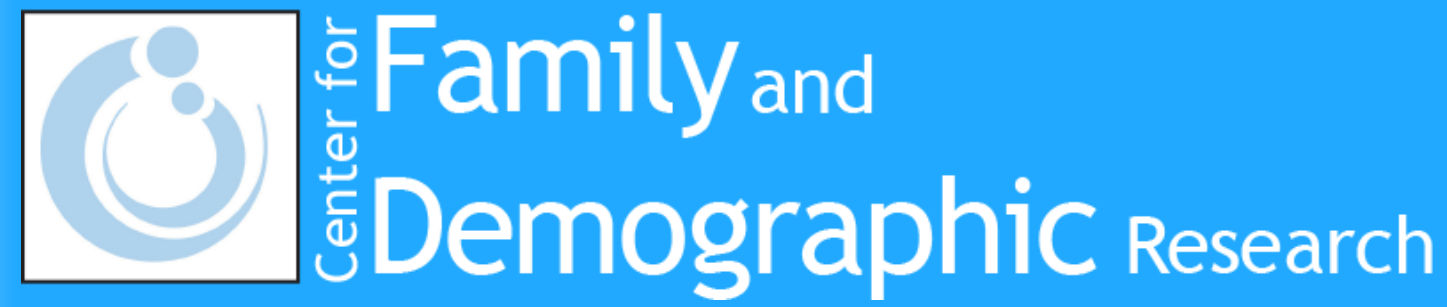


# Change in Stability of Premarital Cohabitation, 1980-2009

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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 (Leifbroer & Dourleijn 2006; Manning & Cohen 2012)

## The Present Study

- Stability of two comparable cohabitation cohorts (1980-1984 and 2005-2009)
- 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

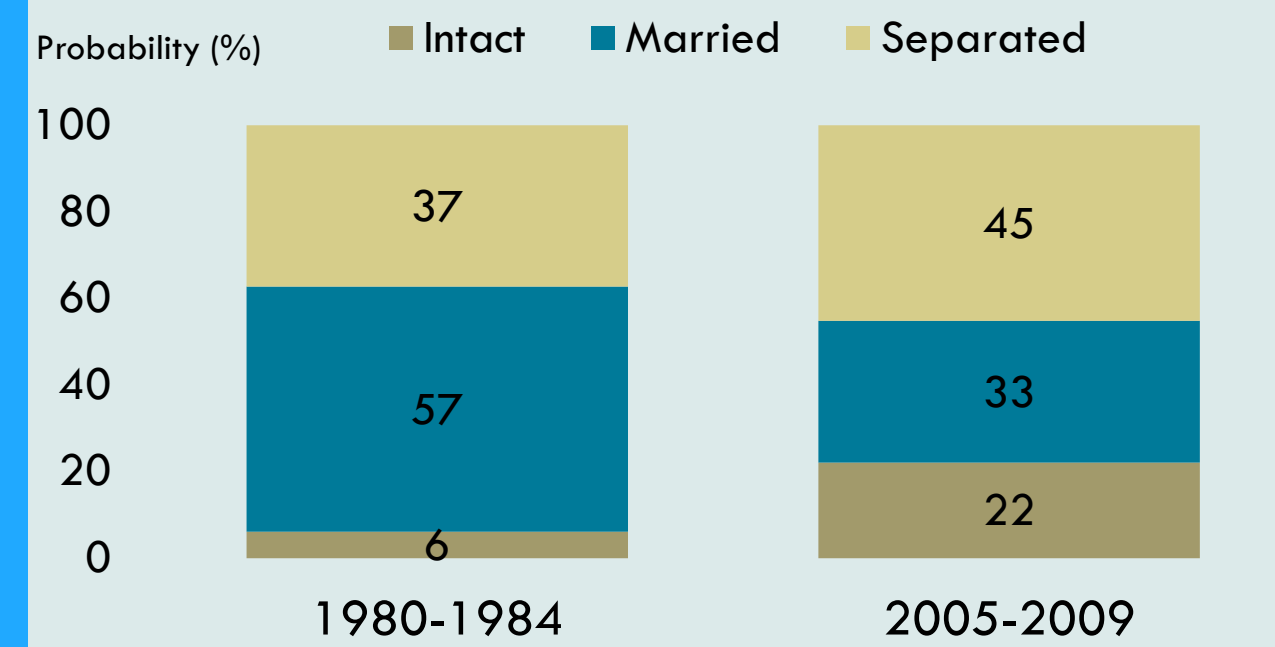
## Data and Sample

- The National Survey of Family Growth
- Cycle 4 (1988) and the 2011-2013 interview
- Combined sample size of 1479 women aged 15-44 (707 in 1980-1984 cohort, 772 in 2005-2009 cohort)

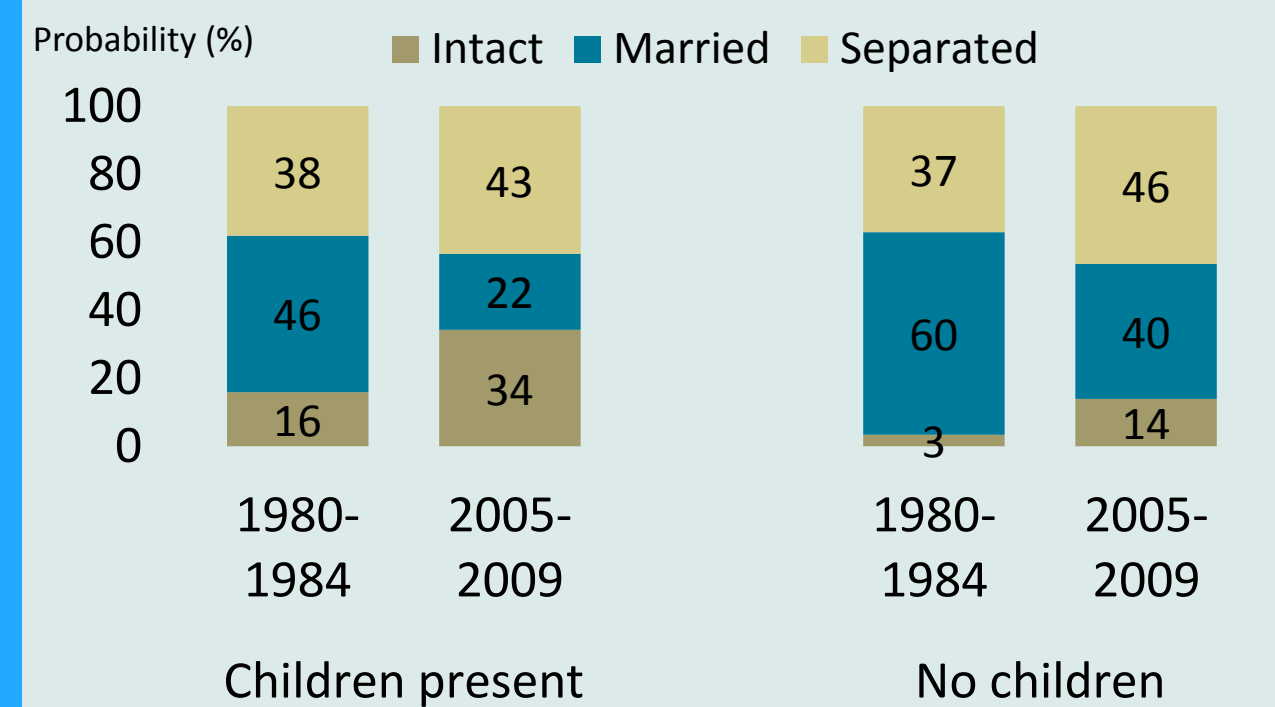
## Method

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

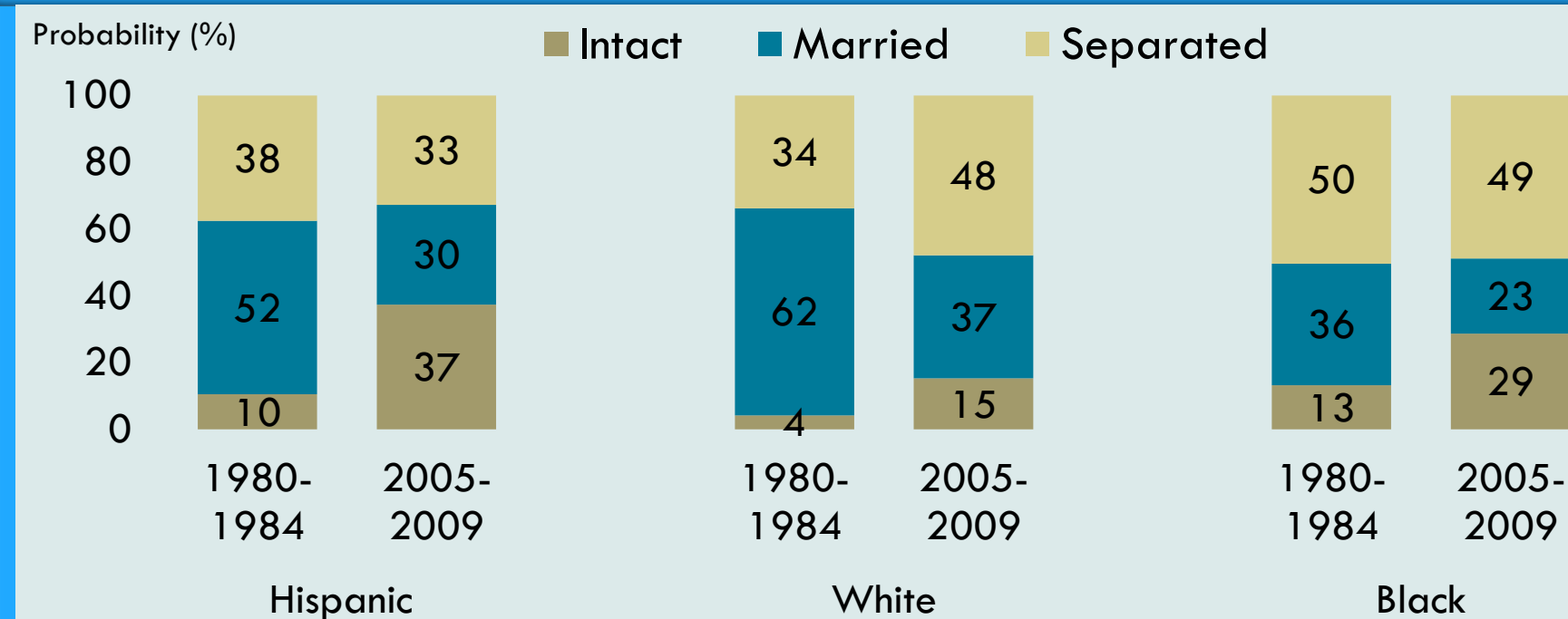
## Probability of Survival and Dissolution of First Premarital Cohabitation within Five Years



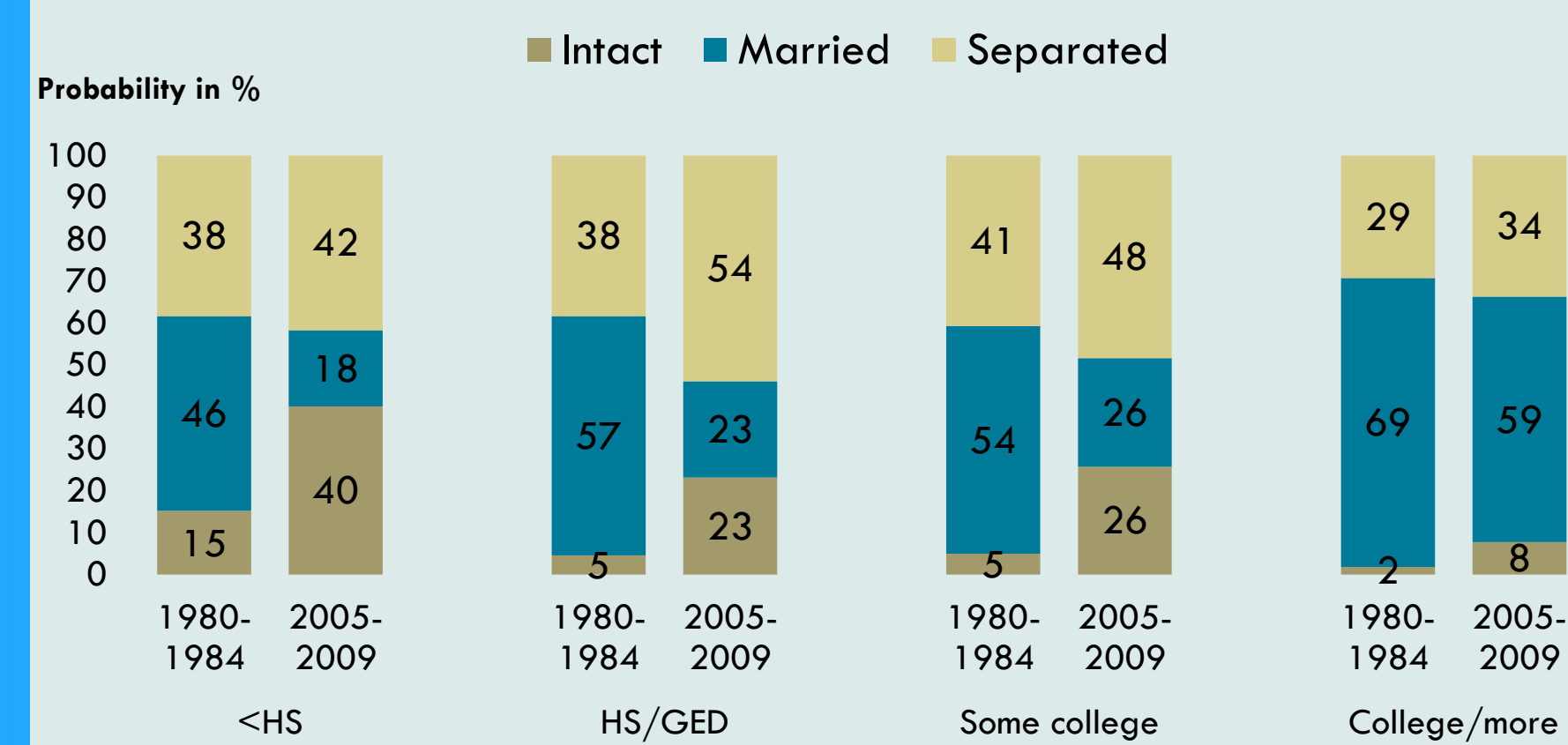
## Presence of Children and Outcomes of First Premarital Cohabitation within Five Years



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



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



## Multivariate Results

Predictors	Model 1		Model 2		Model 3		Model 4	
	Marriage vs. intact	Dissolution vs. intact	Marriage vs. intact	Dissolution vs. intact	Marriage vs. intact	Dissolution vs. intact	Marriage vs. intact	Dissolution vs. intact
Cohort (1980-1984 = 0)								
2005-2009	0.40***	0.79*	0.39***	0.77†	0.45***	0.88	0.43***	0.87
Socio-demographic characteristics								
Race/Ethnicity (White = 0)								
Hispanic			0.85	1.03			1.01	1.44
Black			0.46***	0.99			0.54**	1.65**
Other			0.63	1.18			0.71	1.32
Education (<HS = 0)								
HS/GED			1.59*	1.39			1.45†	1.32
Some college			1.40	1.35			1.14	1.20
College degree or more			1.69*	0.99			1.18	0.97
Non-intact family at age 14			0.79†	0.85			0.81	0.82
Lives in metropolitan area			0.69*	1.18			0.67**	1.30
Relationship Characteristics								
Age at first cohabitation					1.03*	0.95*	1.04*	0.95*
Has a child					0.47***	0.57***	0.62*	0.44***
Intercept	0.03***	0.02***	0.04***	0.01***	0.02***	0.05***	0.02***	0.04***

Note: \*\*\* p < 0.001, \*\* p < 0.01, \* p < 0.05, † p < 0.10

## 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