

Trends in Cohabitation

The Never Married and Previously Married, 1995-2014



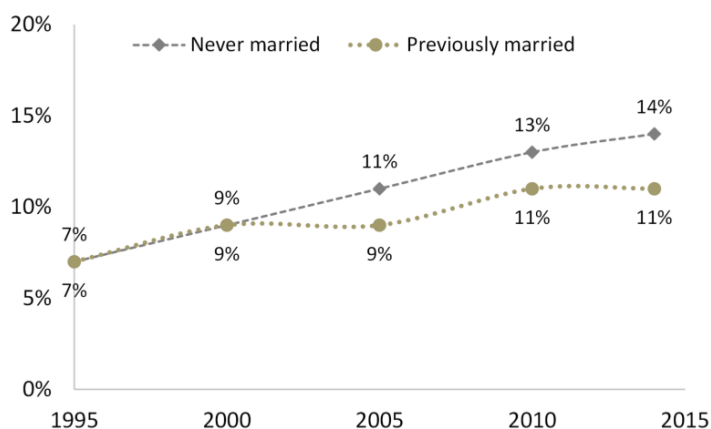
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The increase in cohabitation is one of the most remarkable demographic shifts occurring in the U.S. Most couples now live together before marriage, meaning that cohabitation has become the dominant pathway to forming a marital union (FP-15-01). Also, much of the decline in the remarriage rate over the past decades is offset by an increase in postmarital cohabitation (McNamee and Raley, 2011). More than two-thirds of women remarrying in recent years cohabited with their husbands (Teachman, 2008). This profile compares cohabitation trends among never married and previously married couples in the U.S. using data from the Current Population Survey.

Trends in Cohabitation among Never Married and Previously Married Adults, 1995-2014

- Over the past two decades, cohabitation increased among both never and previously married adults. The increase was more pronounced among never marrieds.
- Similar shares (7%) of never and previously married adults were cohabiting in 1995.
- The proportion of never married adults living with cohabiting partners doubled from 7% in 1995 to 14% in 2014 (a 100% increase).
- The share of previously married adults in a cohabiting union increased by 57%, from 7% in 1995 to 11% in 2014 (Figure 1).

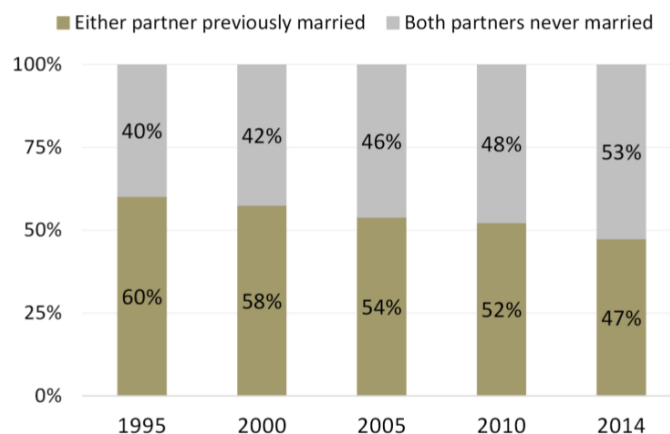
Figure 1. Trends in Cohabitation among Never Married and Previously Married Adults



Changes in Relationship History of Cohabiting Couples, 1995-2014

- The composition of cohabiting couples has shifted over time favoring those where both partners have never been married.
- Two decades ago, the majority (60%) of cohabiting couples included one previously married partner, and 40% of cohabiting couples consisted of two never married adults. In 2014, about half (47%) of cohabiting couples included one previously married member and (53%) of current cohabiting couples were composed of two never married adults (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Changes in Relationship History of Cohabiting Couples



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey

Changes in the Share of Never Married and Previously Married Cohabiting Couples with Children, 1995-2014

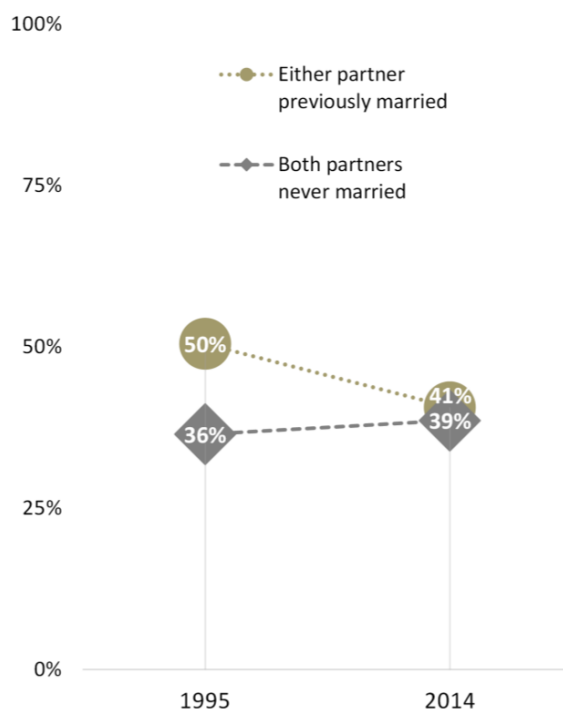
➤ Over nearly two decades, never married and previously married cohabiting couples have become more alike in terms of presence of children in the household.

➤ In 1995, a greater share of previously married cohabiting couples (50%) than never married cohabitators (36%) lived with children. By 2014, similar shares of never married and previously married cohabiting couples had children in the household (Figure 3).

➤ The growing similarity in presence of children among never and previously married cohabiting couples primarily reflects the declining share of ever married cohabiting couples co-residing with children.

➤ The share of previously married cohabiting couples living with children dropped by nearly one-fifth, from 50% in 1995 to 41% in 2014.

➤ The share of never married cohabiting couples living with children increased slightly from 36% in 1995 to 39% in 2014.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey

References:

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Suggested Citation:

Lamidi, E. (2015). Trends in cohabitation: The never married and previously married, 1995-2014 (FP-15-21). National Center for Family & Marriage Research. Retrieved from: <http://www.bgsu.edu/ncfmr/resources/data/family-profiles/lamidi-cohab-trends-never-previously-married-fp-15-21>



This project is supported with assistance from Bowling Green State University. From 2007 to 2013, support was also provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. The opinions and conclusions expressed herein are solely those of the author(s) and should not be construed as representing the opinions or policy of any agency of the state or federal government.

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