Adolescent Experiences and Serial Cohabitation

Emily Schondelmyer and Matthew R. Wright, emilyks@bgsu.edu and mrwrigh@bgsu.edu

Department of Sociology
Bowling Green State University

Background

- Types of Cohabitation: Single Instance Cohabitation, Serial Cohabitation
- Serial Cohabitation: two or more cohabiting relationships
- 40% increase over the 90’s and early 2000’s

Context of Cohabitation

- Schoen, Landale, and Daniels (2007:817) - “new pattern of intensive co-residential dating among single women.”

Purpose

- To examine the factors associated with serial cohabitation among young adults
- To explore the relationship between cohabitation and sexual experiences

Methods

- National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health, Wave 1 and 4)
- Analytic Sample: n=6,037
- Wave 1: 16-18 years old
- Wave 4: Respondents were re-interviewed
- Valid information for union start dates
- Multinomial Logistic Regression

Results

- Links adolescent indicators to serial cohabitation
- Utilizes a contemporary cohort of young adults
- Includes men

Descriptive Statistics

- Cohabitation Experience
  - Single Instance Cohabitation
  - Serial Cohabitation

Multivariate Models

- Adolescent indicators: Romantic and nonromantic sexual relationships, Only nonromantic sexual relationships, No sexual relationships, Delinquency, Parent closeness, importance of religion, and GPA

Key Findings

- Adolescent indicators are related to serial cohabitation:
  - Sexual activity is related to serial cohabitation
  - Casual sex was not significantly related
  - Lower self-esteem and higher delinquency increase odds of serial cohabitation
  - Religious importance decreases the odds serial cohabitation

Conclusion & Limitations

- We find that adolescent sexual experiences in general influence the likelihood of cohabiting more than one time
- Other adolescent experiences, like delinquency, positively influence entrance into serial cohabitation
- A limitation may be potential bias with retrospective reports of cohabitation

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