

Adolescent Experiences and Serial Cohabitation

Background

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

Context of Cohabitation

- Lichter, Turner, and Sassler (2010: 759)- “new pattern of intensive co-residential dating among single women.”
- Schoen, Landale, and Daniels (2007:817) -cohabitation “is an alternative to being single”

Prior Research

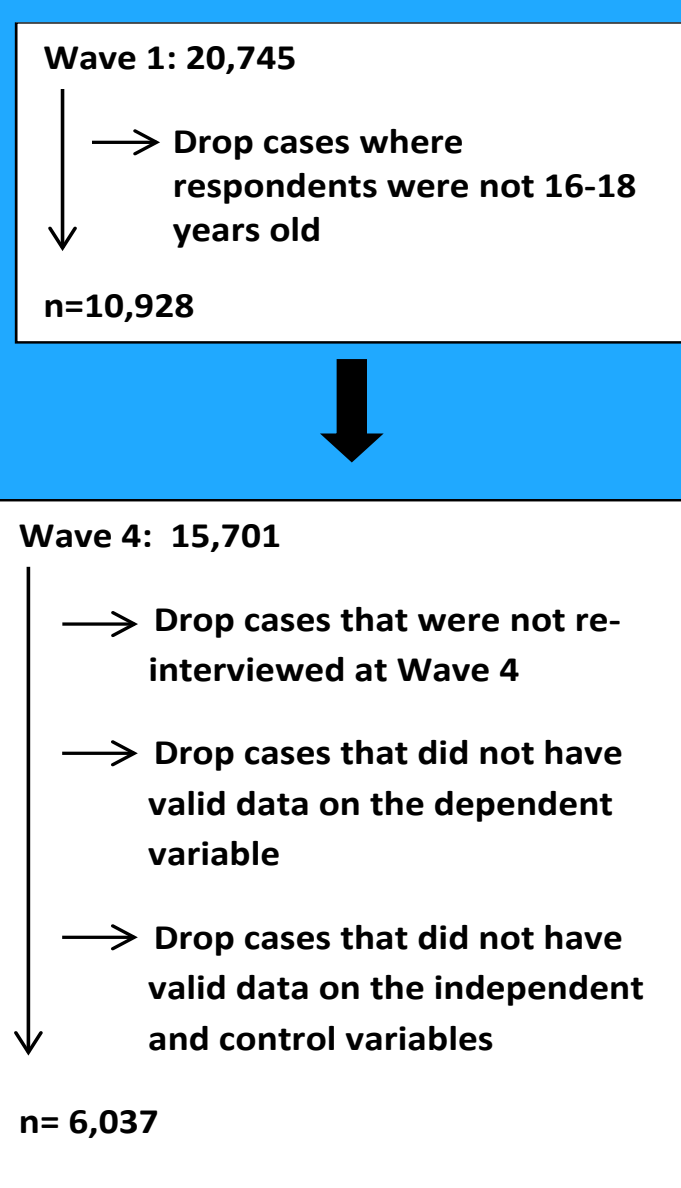
- Sex in Adolescence
 - More likely to cohabit
- Casual sexual relationships
 - higher odds of cohabitation in early adulthood
 - Unlikely to transition into marriage
- Low GPA, higher delinquency, and low parent closeness are associated with higher odds of cohabitation
- Religiosity is negatively associated with cohabitation

Current Study

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

Data and 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

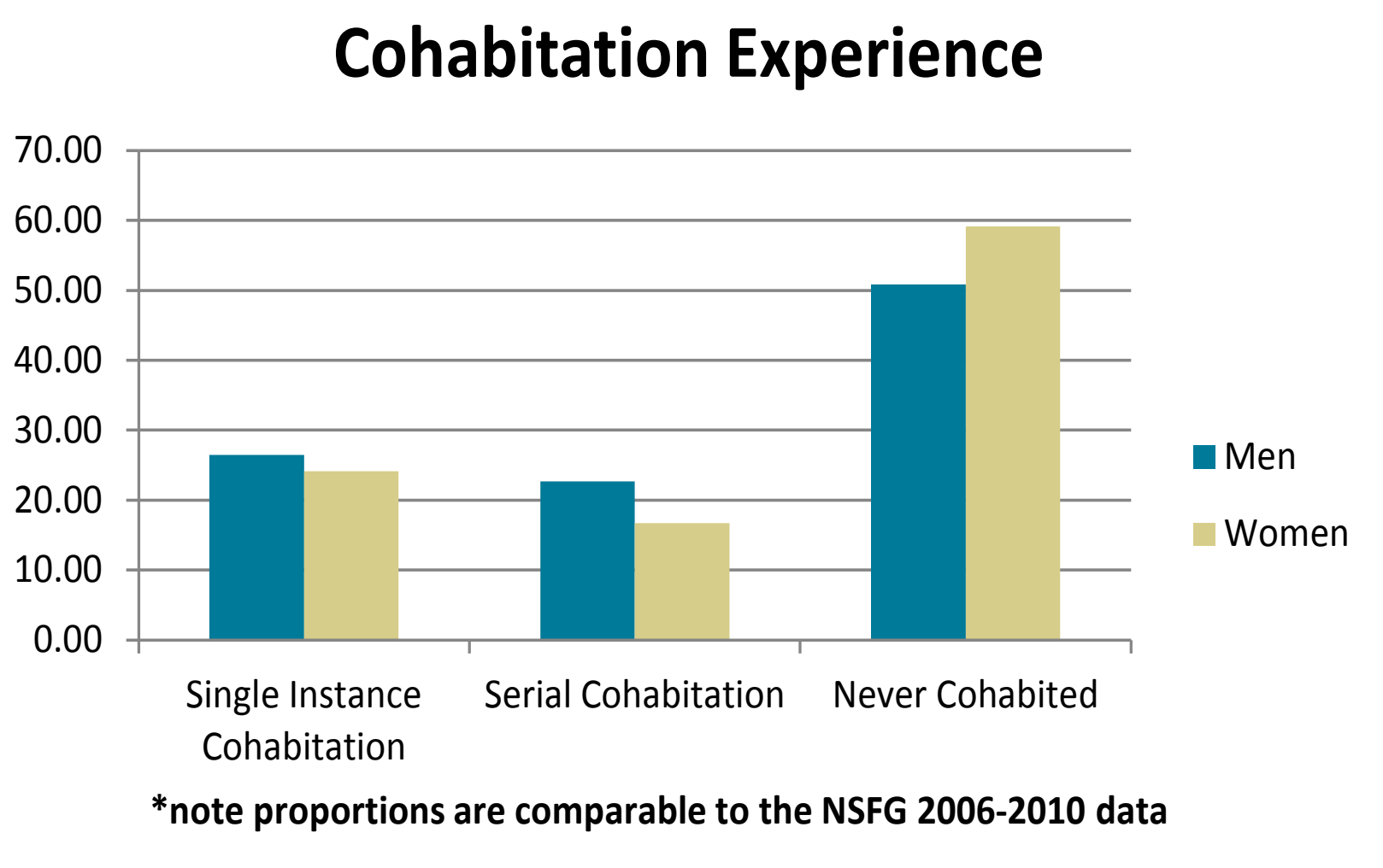


Descriptive Statistics

Weighted Distribution of Variables for Wave 1

Individual Reports(means)	Full Sample	Men	Women
GPA	2.77	2.68	2.87
Delinquency	1.65	2.2	1.08
Parent Closeness	4.05	4.11	3.99
Importance of Religion	2.96	2.89	3.03
Self-Esteem	24.51	24.96	24.05
Race			
White	67.1	66.91	67.3
Black	14.79	15.02	14.55
Hispanic	10.73	10.92	10.55
Asian	3.81	3.67	3.96
Other	3.57	3.49	3.65
Female	49.25		
Family Structure			
Biological	55.5	56.89	54.07
Stepfamily	16.56	16.62	16.5
Single Parent	23.19	21.91	24.52
Other	4.74	4.58	4.91
Family SES	5.54	5.63	5.45

n= 6037

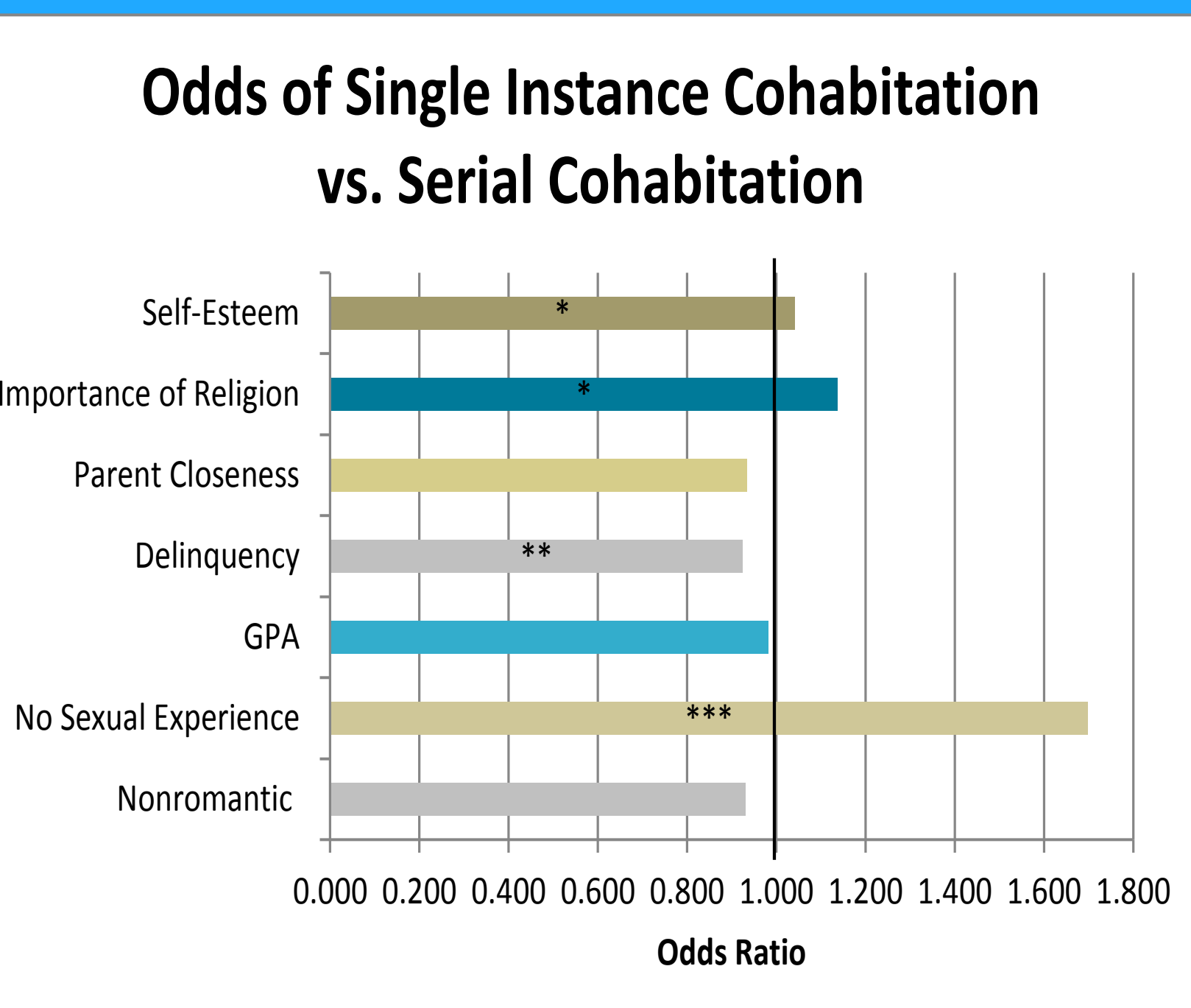
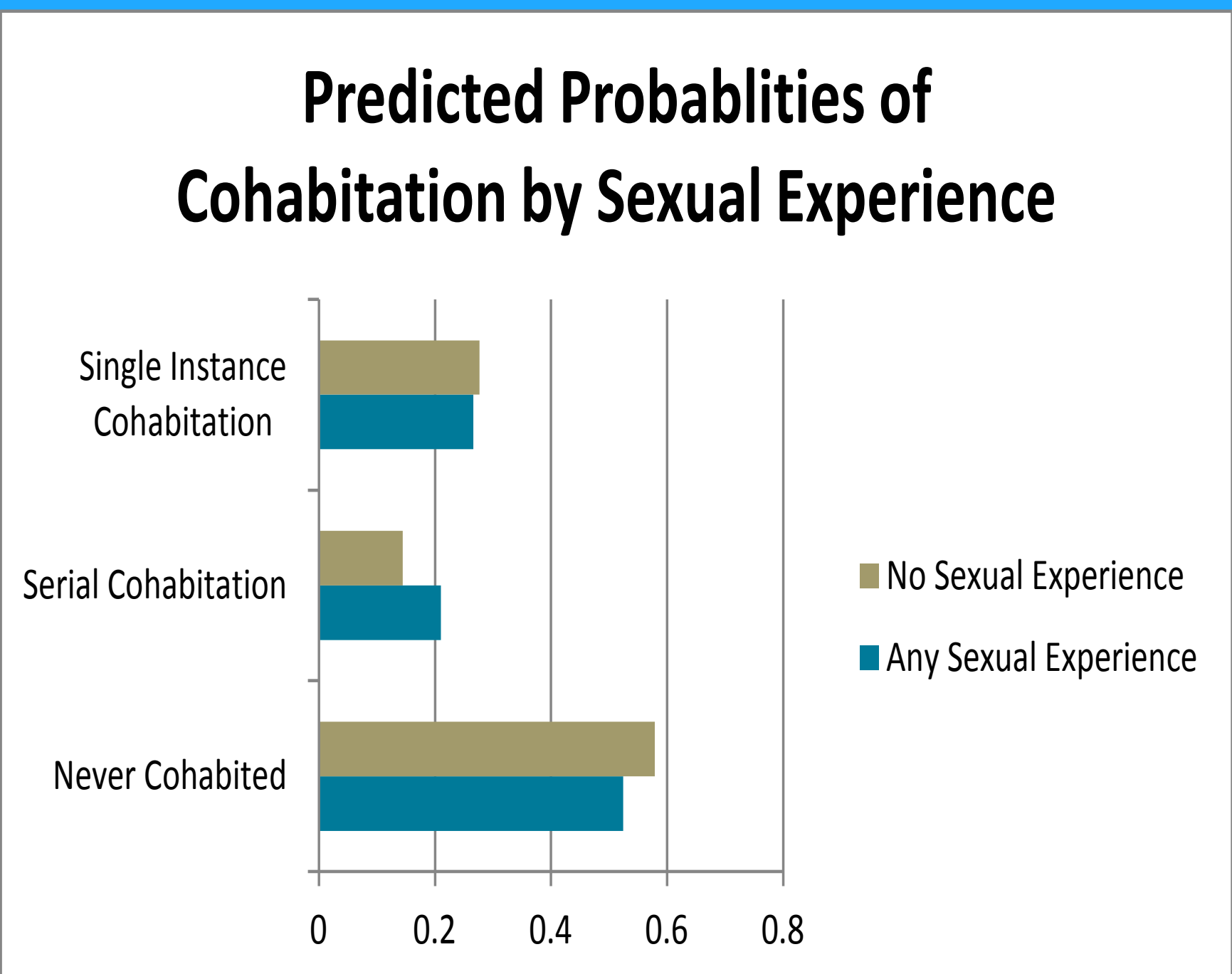


Weighted Distribution of Sexual Experience

Sexual Experience	Full Sample	Men	Women
No Sexual Experience	44.71	45.29	44.12
Nonromantic	12.3	16.72	7.75
Romantic Relationship	42.98	37.99	48.13

Measured at Wave 1

Results



Measures

- Dependent Variable:
- Premarital Cohabitation-
 - Never cohabited
 - Cohabited only 1 time
 - Cohabited 2 or more times
- Adolescent Indicators:
 - Romantic and nonromantic sexual relationships
 - Only nonromantic sexual relationships
 - No sexual relationships
 - Delinquency, parent closeness, importance of religion, and GPA

Multivariate Models

Multinomial Logistic Regression of Adolescent Indicators and Serial Cohabitation in Emerging Adulthood

Independent Variables	No Cohabitation vs. Serial Cohabitation				Single Instance Cohabitation vs. Serial Cohabitation			
	Zero Order	SE	Full Model	SE	Zero Order	SE	Full Model	SE
Sexual Experience								
(Romantic Relationship)								
Only Nonromantic Sex	0.681*	0.099	0.744†	0.122	0.909	0.147	0.931	0.159
No Sexual Experience	2.228***	0.261	1.689***	0.203	1.932***	0.272	1.699***	0.238
Individual Reports (means)								
GPA	1.679***	0.115	1.244*	0.105	1.207**	0.085	0.982	0.075
Delinquency	0.838***	0.017	0.906***	0.020	0.894***	0.021	0.924**	0.024
Parent Closeness	1.193**	0.066	1.014	0.066	1.100	0.083	0.934	0.077
Importance of Religion	1.337***	0.050	1.300***	0.050	1.211***	0.058	1.138*	0.058
Self-Esteem	1.037*	0.015	1.025	0.016	1.046**	0.016	1.042*	0.019
Race								
(White)								
Black			0.394***	0.059			0.933	0.130
Hispanic			1.321	0.223			1.564*	0.291
Asian			0.924	0.323			0.950	0.254
Other			0.972	0.277			1.244	0.341
Female			1.356**	0.138			1.165	0.133
Family Structure								
(Biological)								
Stepfamily			0.679**	0.091			0.728*	0.093
Single Parent			0.637**	0.075			0.906	0.104
Other			1.227	0.314			1.060	0.281
Family SES			1.002	0.020			1.040†	0.024
Serial Cohabitation is Base Comparison								
(n=6037)								

† p<.1. * p<.05. ** p<.01. *** p<.001

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

Acknowledgments

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