

The (R)Evolution in the Measurement of Cohabitation as a Family Form

Wendy D. Manning

Measurement Questions

COUNTING COUPLES: Improving Marriage, Divorce, Remarriage, and Cohabitation Data in the Federal Statistical System

Highlights from a
National Workshop
December 13 and 14, 2001
The National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

Sponsored by:
The Data Collection Committee
of the Federal Interagency Forum
on Child and Family Statistics

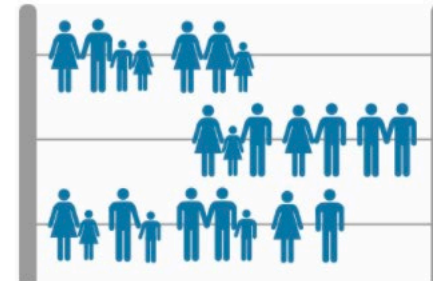


Handbook of Measurement Issues in Family Research

Edited by
Sandra L. Hofferth
Lynne M. Casper

Counting Couples, Counting Families

Bowling Green State University / National Center for Family & Marriage Research [NCFMR] / Media & Events Conferences / Counting Couples, Counting Families



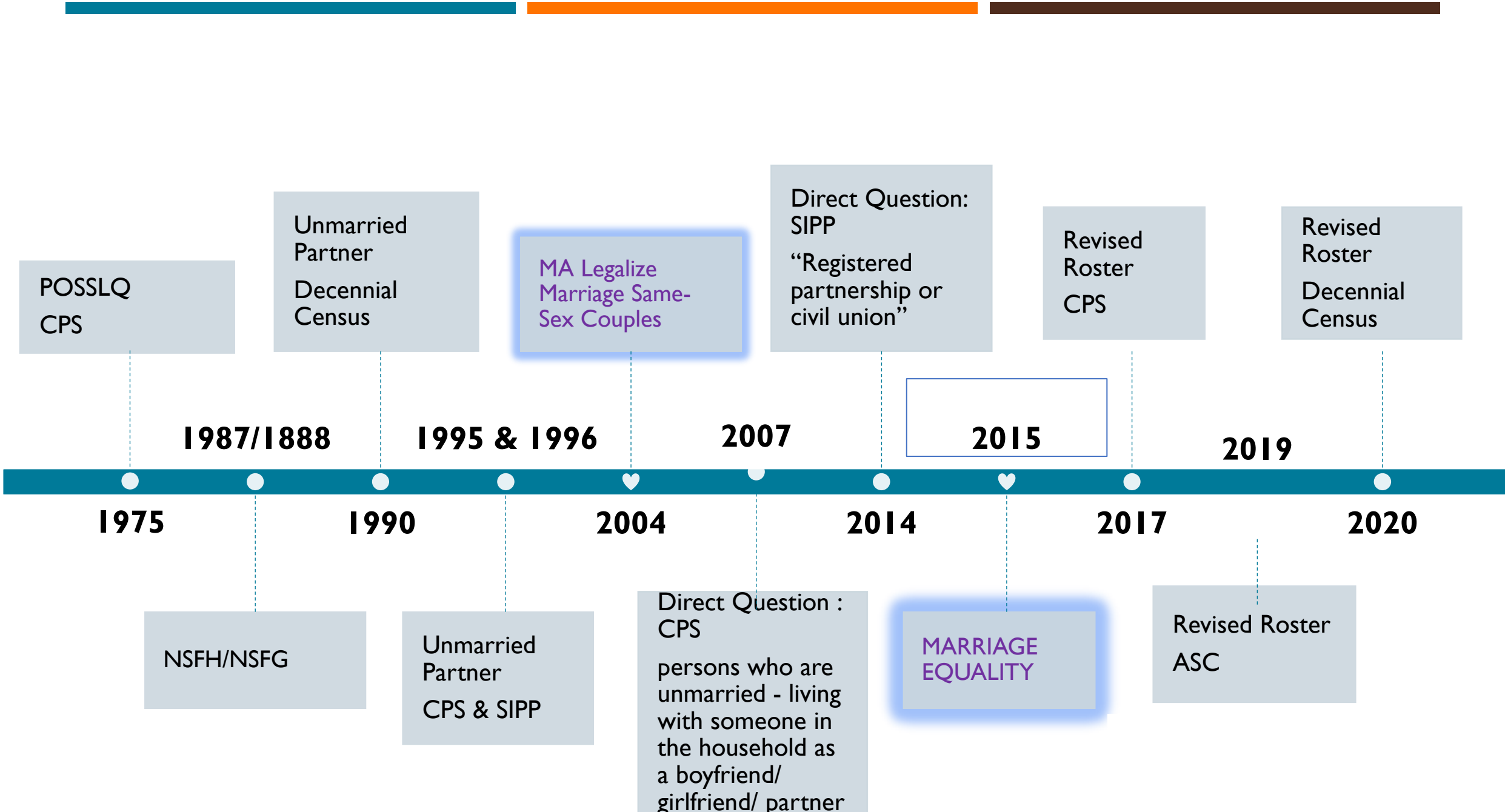
Counting Couples, Counting Families



2011 Research Conference

July 19-20, 2011

- **Full Report**
- **Executive Summary**
- **Agenda**
- **Brochure**
- **Question Crosswalks**
- **Poster Session Participants**
- **Sponsors and Organizing Committee**
- **Program Overview**
- **Counting Couples I Conference Materials**
- **Counting Couples II Conference Materials**



Census Data Collections: Revised Household Rosters

United States[®]
Census
Bureau

3. How is this person related to Person 1? Mark ONE box.

- Opposite-sex husband/wife/spouse
- Opposite-sex unmarried partner
- Same-sex husband/wife/spouse
- Same-sex unmarried partner

- Biological son or daughter
- Adopted son or daughter
- Stepson or stepdaughter
- Brother or sister
- Father or mother
- Grandchild
- Parent-in-law
- Son-in-law or daughter-in-law
- Other relative
- Roommate or housemate
- Foster child
- Other nonrelative

Why is there a distinction between opposite-sex and same-sex couples?

◀ PREVIOUS

- Opposite-sex husband/wife/spouse
- Opposite-sex unmarried partner
- Same-sex husband/wife/spouse
- Same-sex unmarried partner

Black or African Am. – Print, for example, African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Somali, etc. z

The 2020 census is introducing a differentiation between opposite-sex and same-sex couples in order to improve the bureau's data about same-sex couples. The bureau previously produced counts of same-sex couples from 2000 and 2010 census data using responses to questions about sex and relationship. Some opposite-sex couples mismarked their sex and were incorrectly counted as same-sex couples in initial estimates.

DATA	QUESTION WORDING
NATIONAL SURVEY OF FAMILY GROWTH (2017-2019)	Are you not married but living together with a partner of the opposite sex ?
NATIONAL HEALTH INTERVIEW SURVEY 2019	The next questions are about marriage and cohabitation. Are you now married, living with a partner together as an unmarried couple , or neither?
PSID (TA) 2019	Are you CURRENTLY living with a partner in a marriage-like relationship ?
ADD HEALTH Wave 5	<p>Roster: What is {INITIALS} relationship to you?" (response categories: husband/wife, partner/boyfriend/girlfriend, son/daughter, etc.)</p> <p>Survey: Are you currently living with a romantic or sexual partner?</p>
NLSY-97	<p>Roster: Here is a list of people who usually live in the household at your current residence at this time. What is [this person]'s relationship to you? (response categories: Wife, Husband, Mother, Father, Sister (Full/Half/Step/Adoptive), Brother (Full/Half/Step/Adoptive), Lover/Romantic Partner, etc.)</p> <p>Survey: Since the date of our last interview, have you been, married to someone, or lived with a partner of the opposite sex in a marriage-like relationship where you established one household and lived together</p>

Cohabitation as a Fuzzy Concept (Knab 2005)

- Language
- Starting and Ending: Dates, Gradual, Churning, Number of Nights, Duration
- Co-residence is not binary – part-time and full time
- Limited to one partner – Cohab and Marriage Discrete
Multiple partners
- Ever Cohabit and Histories



New Pandemic Data Collections

Census Pulse Surveys: Cohabitation Not Included

NCHAT: National Couples' Health and Time Use Study

Inclusive survey – non-heterosexual

Co-residential partnerships – “are you currently living with a spouse/husband/wife or partner/girlfriend/boyfriend most of the time?”

Oversamples of individuals with sexual minority identities and Asian, Black, and Latino/Hispanic identities





Lessons Learned



Explicit
Measurement



Consistency
across surveys



Multi-method



Multidisciplinary

Thank you!

Please share your work and send any questions or comments.

wmannin@bgsu.edu