

GGP AT A GLANCE

Did you know?

Living apart together (LAT) relationships are when a couple are in a relationship but choose not to live together. They are an interesting topic of study because data on these relationships is hard to come by as they do not appear in residency or marital registries. Surveys like the Generations and Gender Survey (GGS) are therefore vital in studying how prevalent these types of relationships are, what type of people generally have them and whether they are similar to marriage and cohabitation. Indeed, data from the GGS has been used by several international research projects which have examined precisely these questions. The findings suggest that such relationships are in fact a sizeable minority and often allow couples to meet short term work and educational requirements. They are therefore most common amongst the highly educated and those who are still in education. LAT relationships at older ages are most common amongst those who have experienced divorce in a previous relationship and those wanting to maintain independence.

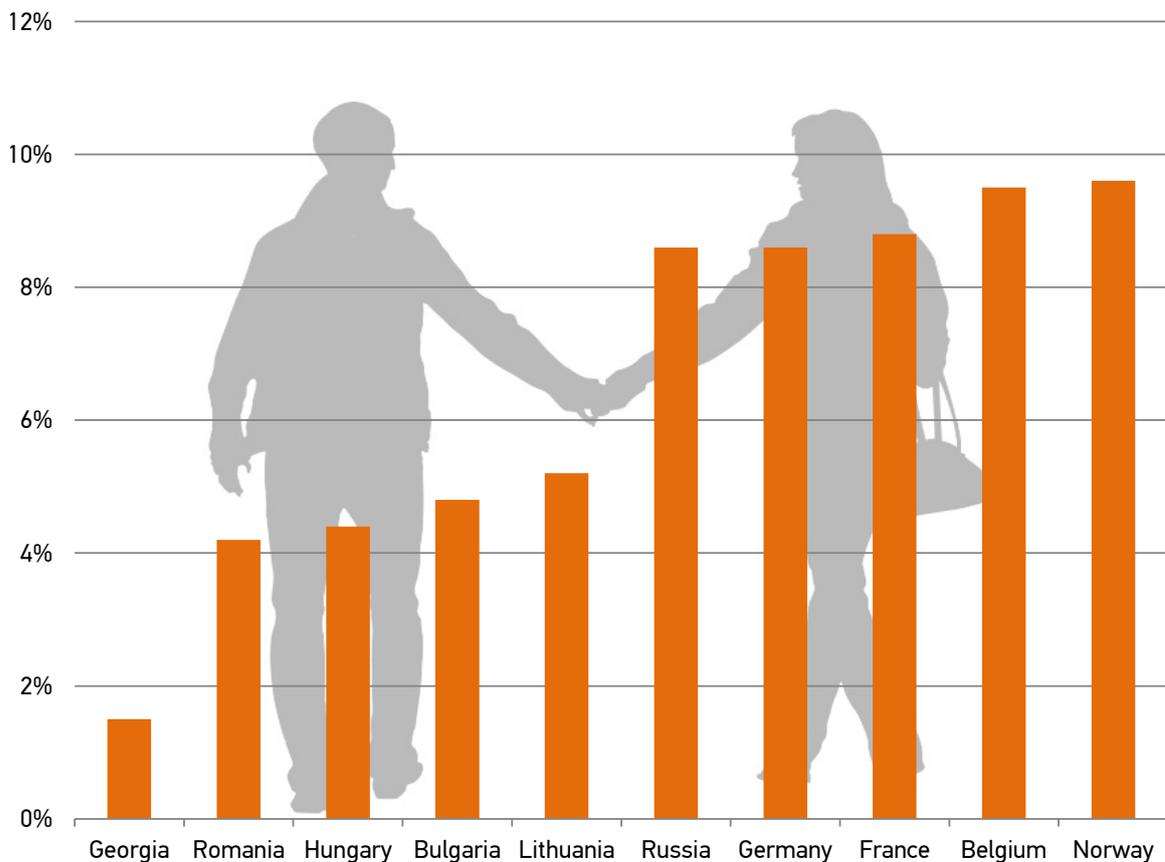


Figure 1: Percentage of Adults living in LAT relationships by Country

Source: The graphic contains data from Wave 1 of the Generations and Gender Survey and the following publication: Liefbroer, Aart C., Anne-Rigt Poortman, and Judith Seltzer. "Why do intimate partners live apart? Evidence on LAT relationships across Europe." *Demographic Research* 32.8 (2015): 251-286.

Recently published GGP studies

Dommermuth, Lars, Jane Klobas, and Trude Lappegård. “Realization of fertility intentions by different time frames.” *Advances in Life Course Research* (2015).

Abstract: This paper focuses on the realization of positive fertility intentions with different time frames. The analyses are based on a unique combination of *Generations and Gender Survey* data and information from Norwegian administrative registers on childbearing in the years following the complete selected sample. Overall, the childless were less likely to realize their fertility intentions than parents. Following the Theory of Planned Behaviour, the childless may underestimate the difficulty of acting on their intentions and therefore have more difficulty realizing their intentions, versus parents who take into account their ability to manage another child. The results also show that the childless with an immediate fertility intention are more likely to succeed than those with a longer-term intention. Likewise, parents with an immediate fertility intention are more likely to realize their intention during the two first years after the interview, but after four years the childbearing rate was higher among those with longer-term fertility intentions

Dommermuth, Lars, and Kenneth Aarskaug Wiik. “First, Second or Third Time Around? The Number of Co-residential Relationships among Young Norwegians.” *Young - Nordic Journal of Youth Research* 22.4 (2014): 323-343.

Abstract: Young adults in Norway mostly choose cohabitation as their first co-residential union and the age of first union formation is comparatively low. However, dissolution rates are higher in Norway than in most other parts of Europe, potentially leading to unstable relationship careers in young adulthood. Using recent *Generations and Gender* data on men and women born 1927–73, we analyze the prevalence and correlates of the number of co-residential unions experienced by the age of 35. We find that the number of co-residential relationships has increased across cohorts, but this development has slowed down among the youngest cohorts. The type of the first union plays a crucial role, and young adults who did not marry their first cohabiting partner have a higher likelihood of experiencing several co-residential unions than those who married directly or via cohabitation.

Liefbroer, Aart C., Anne-Rigt Poortman, and Judith Seltzer. “Why do intimate partners live apart? Evidence on LAT relationships across Europe.” *Demographic Research* 32.8 (2015): 251-286.

Abstract: Most research asks whether or not cohabitation has come to rival marriage. Little is known about the meaning of living apart together (LAT) relationships, and whether LAT is an alternative to marriage and cohabitation or a dating relationship. We examine across Europe: (1) the prevalence of LAT, (2) the reasons for LAT, and (3) the correlates of (a) LAT relationships vis-à-vis being single, married, or cohabiting, and (b) different types of LAT union. Using *Generations and Gender Survey* data from ten Western and Eastern European countries, we present descriptive statistics about LATs and estimate multinomial logistic regression models to assess the correlates of being in different types of LAT unions. LAT relationships are uncommon, but they are more common in Western than Eastern Europe. Most people in LAT unions intend to live together but are apart for practical reasons. LAT is more common among young people, those enrolled in higher education, people with liberal attitudes, highly educated people, and those who have previously cohabited or been married. Older people and divorced or widowed persons are more likely to choose LAT to maintain independence.

Sweeney, Megan M., Teresa Castro-Martin and Melinda Mills. “The reproductive context of cohabitation in comparative perspective: Contraceptive use in the United States, Spain, and France.” *Demographic Research* 32.5 (2015): 147-182.

Abstract: Discussions of cohabitations place in family formation regimes frequently compare reproductive behavior among married versus cohabiting couples. Many argue that the rise in cohabitation was fueled by availability of highly effective contraception, but that differences in contraceptive use between married and cohabiting couples should diminish as cohabitation becomes more established. We ask whether cohabiting women in the United States, Spain, and France are more likely than married women to use the most effective contraceptive methods and reversible methods. Using data from a variety of surveys including the *Gender and Generations Survey*, we first descriptively compare contraceptive use patterns of cohabiting women to those of married women and then estimate regression models to adjust for group differences in key background factors. Net of differences in age and parity, cohabitators were more likely than married women to use the most effective contraceptives in the United States and France, yet notably not in Spain. The case of Spain thus refutes the assumption that highly effective contraception is a necessary precursor for dramatic growth in cohabitation.

Announcements

3rd GGP User Conference

November 30 - December 1, 2015, Vienna, Austria

The Vienna Institute of Demography is organizing the 3rd User Conference of the GGP. This international conference aims to bring together researchers working with data from the Generations and Gender Survey and the GGP Contextual Database, and invites them to present and discuss their most recent methodological approaches and empirical findings. The conference provides a forum for exchange of ideas among existing as well as new potential GGP users, policy makers and the research community at large.

Papers will cover a wide range of substantive and methodological issues including: Survey methods and implementation, Data quality and validation, Methodological considerations in studying demographic behaviour (e.g. accounting for contextual influences), Subjective wellbeing and demographic outcomes, Labour market and economic well-being, Intergenerational relationships, Grandparenthood, Retirement, Fertility of subpopulations and different social groups, Fertility intentions and their realization, Division of (un)paid work, Cohabitation, Fertility, Union formation and dissolution. The organizers especially encourage the submission of papers using the cross-national and longitudinal aspects of the GGP data.

The deadline for submission is 14th June 2015.

Authors will be able to submit abstracts via the GGP website shortly.

Call for papers: “Education and Reproduction in Low-Fertility Settings

International conference of the Vienna Institute of Demography (VID) and the Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital (WIC), December 2-4, 2015, Vienna, Austria

The annual VID/WIC conference will take place on 2-4 December 2015 and will focus on Education and reproduction in low-fertility settings. The conference will discuss aggregate and individual links between level of education and reproductive behaviour among women and men. It will cover countries, regions and populations with below-replacement or around-replacement fertility. Empirical and theoretical contributions examining the relationship between education and union formation, fertility and reproductive behaviour are welcome. The authors of the papers selected for the conference will be invited to submit their manuscripts to the special issue of the Vienna Yearbook of Population Research (2017). For more details about the conference topics and other information consult the conference website: <http://www.oeaw.ac.at/vid/edurep>

Deadline for submitting one-page abstracts: June 30, 2015. Contact: conference.vid@oeaw.ac.at



Generations & Gender Programme

For more information, visit our website: <http://www.ggp-i.org>
For contact: email: ggp@nidi.nl

