

GGP AT A GLANCE

Did you know?

Couples living together before marriage has become increasingly common over the past few decades. This raises the question of whether marriages preceded by cohabitation are more or less stable and enduring as marriages in which the couple have not previously lived together. Some argue that cohabitation lessens people's commitment to partnership and thus increases their risk of divorce, while others believe that a cohabitation phase before marriage (as a trial marriage) would strengthen marital stability. In the United States, data suggest that the effect of cohabitation on marriage is at best neutral; however, in European countries, the effect of cohabitation on marital stability varies markedly, according to a study covering the last decade of the twentieth century (Liefbroer and Dourleijn, 2006). Figure 1 indicates just how much union stability varies across countries for both those who have cohabited prior to marriage and those who have not. The GGS enables us to examine whether this pattern has changed over time or differs across groups within society.

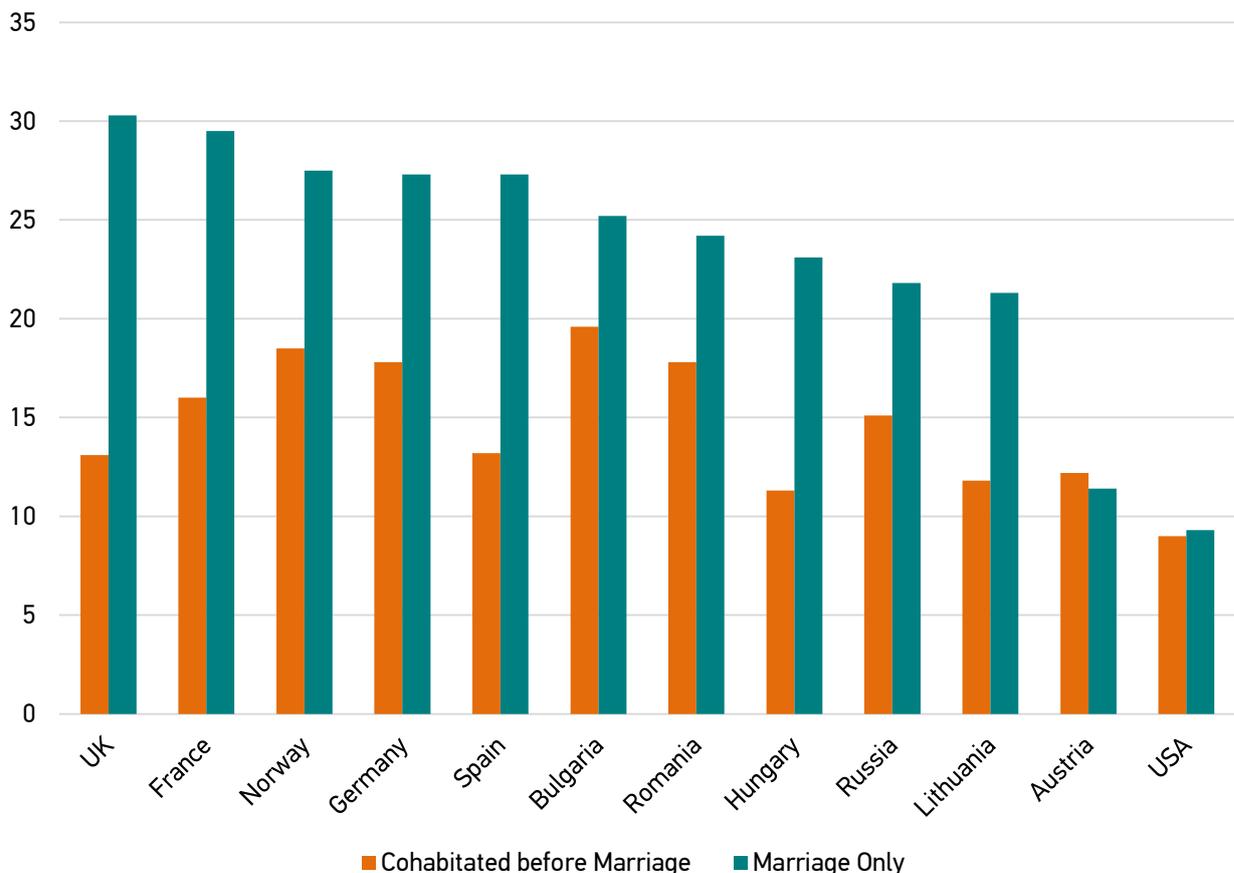


Figure 1: Mean duration in years of heterosexual 21-79 year old individuals first union which was a cohabiting relationship followed by marriage or a marriage not preceded by cohabitation

Source: This is an excerpt from the blog "Cohabitation, Marriage and Union Instability in Europe" by Jaap Dronkers which is available at (<http://family-studies.org/cohabitation-marriage-and-union-instability-in-europe/>) Generations and Gender Programme, Harmonized Histories File (ggp-i.org/harmhistories.html).

Recently published GGP studies

Hansen, T., & Slagsvold, B. (2015) Late-Life Loneliness in 11 European Countries: Results from the Generations and Gender Survey. *Social Indicators Research*, 1-20.

Abstract: This study explores country differences in late-life loneliness in Europe among men and women and establishes the role of micro-level differences in socioeconomic status, health, and social variables in these patterns. We use cross-sectional, nationally representative data from the [Generations and Gender Survey](#). The analysis comprises 33,832 Europeans aged 60–80 from 11 countries. The rate of a quite severe level of loneliness is 30–55 % among men and women in Eastern Europe, compared with 10–20 % among their peers in Western and Northern Europe. Loneliness is strongly associated with lower socioeconomic status, poorer health, and not having a partner. More than half of the country variance in loneliness is mediated by health, partnership status, and socioeconomic disparities across countries. Differences in societal wealth and welfare and cultural norms may account for some of the unexplained country variance in loneliness.

Steiber, N., Berghammer, C., & Haas, B. (2015). Contextualizing the Education Effect on Women's Employment: A Cross National Comparative Analysis. *Journal of Marriage and Family*. DOI: 10.1111/jomf.12256

Abstract: The authors examined how and why the effect of education on women's employment varies cross-nationally. First, they present a theoretical model that (a) outlines the micro-level mechanisms underlying education effects on women's employment in the couple context and (b) proposes contextual moderators at the country level. Second, they tested the theoretical model against survey data from the United Nations' [Generations and Gender Programme](#) for 5 European countries (Austria, France, Germany, Hungary, and Norway). The data comprise 10,048 educationally homogamous heterosexual couples involving a woman age 20–45. The results indicated that more highly educated couples are more likely to have dual-earner arrangements in each country, yet the strength of education effects varied substantially between countries and across the family life cycle. In contrast to prior work, the authors found that education effects are not generally smaller in countries that are supportive of women's employment. This relation holds only for later child-rearing phases.

Perelli-Harris, B., & Lyons-Amos, M. (2015). Changes in partnership patterns across the life course: An examination of 14 countries in Europe and the United States. *Demographic Research*, 33(6), 1-36.

Abstract: Studies on Europe and the US indicate that marriage has been postponed, cohabitation has increased, and unions are more likely to dissolve. However, cross-national studies documenting these trends have typically studied each transition separately. This study aims to simultaneously capture these different partnership trends while examining heterogeneity within countries. Using latent class growth curves, we ask 1) what is changing more - the increase in premarital cohabitation or the increase in divorce and union dissolution? and 2) is cohabitation emerging as a relationship indistinguishable from marriage? These analyses also allow us to see whether changes over time follow a universal trajectory, and whether the US is an outlier in terms of relationship turnover. In all countries, changes in partnership patterns have been driven by the postponement of marriage. Premarital cohabitation has changed patterns of partnership behavior more than union dissolution. Cohabitation has emerged as its own class, but is not identical to any marriage class. The US does not have disproportionately higher "relationship churning" in later cohorts compared to Eastern European countries

Wolf, D. A., Raissian, K. M., & Grundy, E. (2015) Parental disability, parent care, and offspring mental health outcomes. *European Journal of Ageing*, 1-11.

Abstract: Decades of research supports a widely held view that providing parent care is stressful, and that these stresses are associated with adverse mental health outcomes. However, some recent studies suggest an additional possibility, namely that "noncaregiver stress"—a consequence of having a parent with major care needs, but not being an active caregiver—may be a serious problem as well. This finding emerges in data which permit separate controls for parental needs for care and offspring provision of parent care. We extend these results using [GGP](#) data from five countries for which the necessary variables can be comparably measured. In country-specific regressions, we find two instances of statistically significant associations of depression with the regular provision of personal care to a parent with care needs, i.e., the usual "caregiver stress" result. However, we also find two instances of statistically significant differences in respondents' depressive symptoms that are associated with having a parent with care needs, i.e., instances of "noncaregiver stress." We find limited evidence of gender-specific responses to both forms of stress. Our evidence supports both the typical caregiver stress response and the less-studied noncaregiver stress response, which suggests the need for additional research.

Announcements

SERISS

The GGP is delighted to announce that it will be participating in the Horizon 2020 funded program entitled 'Synergies for Europe's Research Infrastructures in the Social Sciences'. The project brings together leading European Research Infrastructures in the social sciences, including the GGP, the European Social Survey, the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe, the Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives, the European Values Study and the WageIndicator Survey. It aims to exploit potential synergies and overcome existing fragmentation across infrastructures in order to enhance the key role played by these infrastructures, which form the bedrock of empirical social science in Europe.

Within SERISS the GGP is participating in a number of working packages. Notably, under WP6: New forms of data - legal, ethical and quality issues, the GGP is leading a task which examines the legal and practical challenges to data linking in social survey research. The GGP has a long history of linking its survey respondents to administrative records and so is well placed to explore how social surveys can further exploit this rich source of data whilst respecting respondents' data rights and protecting their privacy. The GGP will also be applying its experience with administrative data to explore ways in which it can help improve data quality and a survey's representativeness. For more information, visit the SERISS website (www.seriss.eu).

PAIRFAM in Harmonized Histories

We are happy to announce that data from the German Family Panel Study (PAIRFAM) is now available as part of the Harmonized Histories dataset. Users with existing data access to the GGP can download the data via the GGP website and will find the PAIRFAM data in the standard Harmonized Histories file. The dataset has been added to the Harmonized Histories so as to support more comprehensive and complex analysis of German fertility and partnership histories within a comparative context.

Send us your syntax

To support users research we are making common procedures available via the GGP website. The first of these is now available on [our website](#). This first syntax file converts all dates in the GGS into century month format. This date format is easier to use in calculating life histories and event sequences. We are keen to extend this collection of syntax with the help of users. If you would be willing to share a procedure that you have developed, the GGP will make it available via the website, with full authorship accreditation. Our hope is that this will strengthen the research conducted by the community further. Please send STATA or SPSS syntax files to ggp@nidi.nl.

The Future of the GGP

The GGP is currently going through a period of planning regarding future activities. If you would like to be further involved in the Generations and Gender Programme at either the national or international level, we would be very interested in hearing from you. We would be particularly interested in hearing from researchers and scientists in countries or disciplines that are under represented within the GGP.

For more information please email: ggp@nidi.nl



Generations & Gender Programme

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For contact: email: ggp@nidi.nl

