
*
* THE PARTNERS OF COHORT MEMBERS: *
* A Comparison of the characteristics of married and cohabiting partners *
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SUMMARY

1. Over half the respondents were living with a partner when they were interviewed. Nine out of ten of these people were married. Although women were more likely than men to be married, the prevalence of cohabitation was not associated with the sex of the cohort member.
2. Married partners were more alike in age than cohabiting partners. The majority of partners were in their twenties but male partners, particularly cohabitees, tended to be older than female partners; and female cohabitees tended to be younger than wives.
3. In many respects, the pattern of association between the characteristics of partners and the nature of the current partnership is very similar to the association between cohort member's characteristics and the nature of the partnership reported in Working Paper No.20. Cohabitees were more likely than spouses to have been in professional or intermediate occupations, or to have been married before, or to have had children before from a previous relationship. Female cohabitees were more likely than wives to be economically active and employed, whereas male cohabitees were more likely than husbands to be unemployed and seeking work.
4. As with the cohort members, the overall association between these characteristics and the nature of the partnership conceals variation within the group of cohabitees and between those in families with children and those in childless families.

5. Cohabitees who were living with cohort members who had never been married - the couples most likely to be childless (Working Paper No.20, para 14) - had the highest overall social position; they were also most likely to be living with a cohort member who was also engaged in professional or intermediate work. This group also contained the highest proportion of employed women. Conversely, cohabitees living with previously married cohort members - (the couples with the largest families (Working Paper No.20, para 14) - had the lowest overall social position and were most likely to be living with a cohort member who was also engaged in semi or unskilled manual work; men in this group were also more likely to have been married before and to have had had children from a previous relationship.

6. Working Paper No.20 reported that cohabiting respondents who had never been married were most likely to be childless. This paper shows that partners in childless partnerships had the highest overall social position, and were less likely to have been married before or to have had children from a previous relationship; these differences were especially marked among cohabitees and among men. Furthermore, partners in families with children were less likely to be in paid employment than those in childless partnerships, and again the difference was greatest among cohabitees.

INTRODUCTION

1. This paper presents comparisons between the characteristics of partners married to or cohabiting with members of the NCDS IV Cohort at the time of interview. It develops the analysis of marriage and cohabitation presented in Working Paper Number 20.
2. Information on current partnerships is available for 6,371 individuals, 5,587 of whom were married and 784 of whom were cohabiting when interviewed. Cohort members who were separated from the spouse because of marital breakdown are not included among the currently married. These people are included with the previously married respondents. Cohabitation, as defined in this study, involved normally living as if married. It excluded situations where the partners shared bed and board intermittently whilst maintaining separate households.
3. In order to simplify the terms used, individuals married to or living as married with cohort members will be referred to as "partners". Individuals married to members of the cohort will be referred to as "spouses" unless otherwise qualified, and those living as married with cohort members will be referred to as "cohabitees". This paper assumes that the partners of female cohort members were male and that the partners of male cohort members were female, since the information available does not allow us to identify homosexual partnerships.
4. The paper will address the following questions:
 - I Do the characteristics of spouses differ from those of cohabitees?
 - II Do the characteristics of cohabitees living with previously married cohort members differ from those of cohabitees living with cohort members who had never been married?
 - III Do the characteristics of partners differ according to whether or not there are any children in the family?
 - IV To what extent do the characteristics of cohort members differ from those of their partners?

The structure of the paper follows the order of those questions when discussing the ages of partners, their social position, economic activity and previous family status.

5. In order to improve the clarity of the exposition, tables have been included in the text at the request of the DHSS. All tables are percentaged and percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Values of 0.6 to 0.9 are shown as one per cent. Where the percentage is less than 0.6, or where the row total is less than 20, the number of individuals is reported in brackets. In addition, the number of individuals in each cell is reported in brackets below the percentage tables which introduce each characteristic.

AGE OF PARTNER

6. Respondents who were married or living as married when interviewed were asked the age of their partner on his or her last birthday. In order to simplify the presentation of tables ages have been grouped to show the percentage of partners who were in their teens, their twenties, their thirties or forty or over at that time.

Nature of the partnership

7. Predictably, the majority of partners, irrespective of sex, were in their twenties, as Table 1 shows. However, the age of the partner varied with sex and with the nature of the partnership. On average, male partners were older than female partners and male cohabitees were older than husbands. On the other hand, female cohabitees were younger than wives.
8. Male partners were on average four years older (26 years) than female partners (22 years), and cohabitees on average one year older than spouses. Eighteen per cent of cohabitees were 30 or older compared with seven per cent of spouses, and six per cent were under 20 compared with only one per cent of spouses.

Very few of the male partners were under 20, and relatively few of the female partners were 30 or over. However, the proportion of male cohabittees over 29 was greater (27 per cent) than the proportion of husbands over 29 (12 per cent), and the proportion of female cohabittees under 20 was greater (14 per cent) than the proportion of wives under 20 (two per cent).

Table 1. Nature of partnership by age of partner by sex of partner
(base = 6325* partners)

	<u>19 or under</u> %	<u>20-29</u> %	<u>30-39</u> %	<u>40 or over</u> %	<u>N=100%</u>	<u>Average Age</u>
<u>Male partners of</u>						
Married women	(8)	88 (2980)	11 (361)	1 (20)	3369	26
Cohabiting women	1 (4)	72 (326)	24 (107)	3 (16)	453	27
Total male partners	(12)	86 (3306)	12 (468)	1 (36)	3822	26
<u>Female partners of</u>						
Married men	2 (54)	92 (1990)	1 (25)	(1)	2170	22
Cohabiting men	14 (46)	79 (262)	7 (22)	1 (3)	333	23
Total female partners	4 (100)	90 (2252)	2 (47)	4 (4)	2503	22
<u>All partners of</u>						
Married respondents	1 (62)	90 (4970)	7 (386)	(21)	5539	24
Cohabiting respondents	6 (50)	75 (588)	16 (129)	2 (19)	786	25
Total all partners	2 (112)	88 (5558)	8 (515)	1 (40)	6325	24

*It is not possible to establish the age of 46 partners.

Cohort member's marital status

9. Overall, cohabitees living with previously married respondents (the separated, divorced or widowed) were older, on average, than those living with respondents who had never been married, but average age varied with the sex of the cohabitee. Male cohabitees living with previously married women were one year older, on average, than those living with never-married women. Conversely, female cohabitees living with previously married men (of whom there were very few) were younger than those living with never married men (Table 2).

Table 2. Marital status of cohort member by age of cohabitee by sex of cohabitee (base = 786 cohabitees)

	<u>19 or under</u> %	<u>20-29</u> %	<u>30-39</u> %	<u>40 or over</u> %	<u>N=100%</u>	<u>Average Age</u>
<u>Cohabitees of</u>						
Never married women	(1)	73	25	2	366	27
Separated, divorced or widowed women	3	69	18	9	87	28
Total male cohabitees	1	72	24	3	453	27
<u>Cohabitees of</u>						
Never married men	13	79	7	1	305	23
Separated, divorced or widowed men	21	75	4	-	28	22
Total female cohabitees	14	79	7	1	333	23
<u>All cohabitees of</u>						
Never married respondents	6	75	17	2	671	25
Separated, divorced or widowed respondents	8	70	15	7	115	26
Total cohabitees	6	75	16	2	786	25

Children in the family

10. The children referred to here are any dependent children in the care of the cohort member and his or her partner. The definition includes the natural children of cohort members, children born to the partner but not the cohort member, adopted children, and foster children. The analysis is not concerned with the size of the family, but with the comparison between childless families and couples with children.
11. In general, there was very little association between the presence of children in the family and the age of the partner. Male partners with children in the family were rather more likely than those without children to be in their thirties (Tables 3 and 4).

Table 3. Whether children in family by age of spouse by sex of spouse (base = 5539 spouses)

	<u>19 or under</u>	<u>20-29</u>	<u>30-39</u>	<u>40 or over</u>	<u>N=100%</u>
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	
<u>Husbands</u>					
With child(ren)	(5)	87	12	1	1630
Without children	(3)	90	9	(9)	1739
Total husbands	(8)	88	11	1	3369
<u>Wives</u>					
With child(ren)	8	91	1	(1)	922
Without children	7	92	1	-	1248
Total wives	2	92	1	(1)	2170
<u>All spouses</u>					
With child(ren)	3	88	9	(12)	2552
Without children	3	91	6	(9)	2987
Total spouses	1	90	7	(21)	5539

Table 4. Whether children in family by age of cohabitee
by sex of cohabitee (base = 786 cohabitees)

	<u>19 or under</u>	<u>20 to 29</u>	<u>30-39</u>	<u>40 or over</u>	
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N=100%</u>
<u>Male cohabitees</u>					
With child(ren)	1	67	27	5	124
Without children	1	74	22	3	329
Total male cohabitees	1	72	24	3	453
<hr/>					
<u>Female cohabitees</u>					
With child(ren)	16	78	5	1	63
Without children	13	79	7	1	270
Total female cohabitees	14	79	7	1	333
<hr/>					
<u>All cohabitees</u>					
With child(ren)	6	70	20	4	187
Without children	7	76	15	2	599
Total cohabitees	6	75	16	2	786

12. SOCIAL POSITION OF PARTNER

The social position of the partner is based upon the Registrar General's 1980 Classification of Occupations, and is derived from the classification of the job held by the partner at the time of the interview, or the last job held within the previous three months. Consequently, current social position is not available for 22 per cent of partners who were not employed at the time of the interview and who had not been employed in the previous three months. The relatively high proportion of women in non-manual occupations or in full-time housework and the relatively high proportion of men in manual jobs creates difficulties in comparing the economic activity of the sexes. The presentation of differences in social position will concentrate on comparisons within each sex.

. Nature of the partnership

13. The partner's social position varied with the nature of the partnership, particularly among men. The social position of cohabitees was higher than that of spouses (Table 5).
14. The proportion of husbands doing manual work was higher (64 per cent) than the proportion of male cohabitees (56 per cent). In fact, the proportion of cohabitees in the professional or intermediate group was greater than the proportion of spouses in that group. Twenty-nine per cent of male cohabitees and 27 per cent of female cohabitees were in professional or intermediate jobs compared with 21 per cent of husbands and 18 per cent of wives.

TABLE 5 Nature of partnership by partners current social position by sex of partners (base = 4960* partners)

<u>Males Partners of</u>	<u>Prof. and intermed</u>	<u>Other mon-manual</u>	<u>Skilled manual</u>	<u>Other manual</u>	<u>N = 100%</u>
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	
Married women	21 (651)	15 (447)	48 (1477)	16 (483)	3058
Cohabiting women	29 (106)	15 (57)	44 (161)	12 (45)	369
Total male partners	22 (757)	15 (504)	48 (1628)	15 (528)	3427
<u>Female partners of</u>					
Married men	18 (237)	56 (730)	8 (102)	18 (227)	1296
Cohabiting men	27 (63)	43 (103)	7 (17)	23 (54)	237
Total female partners	20 (300)	54 (833)	8 (119)	18 (281)	1533

* Current social position available only for partners who were employed at the time of interview or who had been employed in the previous three months.

Cohort member's marital status

15. The marital status of cohort members was also associated with the social position of cohabitees. The social position of cohabitees living with respondents who had never been married was higher than that of cohabitees living with previously married respondents (Table 6). Thirty-two per cent of the men living with never-married women were in professional or intermediate jobs, compared with 14 per cent of those living with previously married women. Only 17 women overall were living with previously married members of the cohort and it is therefore unwise to draw comparisons with this group.

TABLE 6 Martial status of cohort members by cohabitee's current social position by sex of cohabitee (base = 606 cohabiting partners)

<u>Cohabitees of</u>	<u>Prof. & intermed</u>	<u>Other Non-manual</u>	<u>Skilled manual</u>	<u>Other manual</u>	<u>N = 100%</u>
	%	%	%	%	
Never married women	32	14	39	15	305
Separated, divorced or widowed women	14	22	52	12	64
Total male cohabitees	29	15	41	12	369
<hr/>					
<u>Cohabitees of</u>					
Never married men	27	42	7	24	220
Separated, divorced or widowed men	(4)	(10)	(1)	(2)	17
Total female cohabitees	27	43	7	23	237

Children in the family

16. The presence of children in the family was associated with the social position of partners - particularly among women - irrespective of the nature of the partnership. The proportion of partners in non-manual work who were in childless families was considerably higher than the proportion in families with children (Tables 7 & 8), and in general the social position of childless partners was higher than that of partners with children in the family.

17. Almost half of the husbands and half of the male cohabitees without children were in the non-manual group compared with only 24 per cent of those with children, and over three quarters of the female partners without children were in this group compared with less than half of those with children. This is almost entirely due to the high proportion of childless partners in professional or intermediate occupations.

TABLE 7 Whether children in family by spouse's current social position by sex of spouse (base = 4354 marital partners)

	<u>Prof. & intermed</u>	<u>Other non-manual</u>	<u>Skilled manual</u>	<u>Other manual</u>	
<u>Husbands</u>	%	%	%	%	<u>N = 100%</u>
With child(ren)	13	11	55	21	1422
Without children	29	18	42	11	1636
Total husband's	21	15	48	16	3058
<hr/>					
<u>Wives</u>					
With child(ren)	13	36	9	43	204
Without children	19	60	8	13	1092
Total wives	18	56	8	18	1296

TABLE 8 Whether children in family by cohabitee's current social position by sex of cohabitee (base = 606 cohabitees)

	<u>Prof. & intermed</u>	<u>Other non-manual</u>	<u>Skilled manual</u>	<u>Other manual</u>	
<u>Male cohabitees</u>	%	%	%	%	<u>N = 100%</u>
With child(ren)	11	13	56	20	87
Without children	34	16	36	13	282
Total male cohabitees	29	15	41	12	369
<hr/>					
<u>Female cohabitees</u>					
With child(ren)	11	38	5	46	37
Without children	30	45	7	18	200
Total female cohabitees	27	43	7	23	237

Cohort member's social position

18. Bearing in mind the high proportion of women relative to men in the non-manual group, and the high proportion of men relative to women in the manual group, one would expect to find overall that the majority of male partners were in manual jobs and the majority of female partners in non-manual jobs. And this is indeed the case, as Table 9a shows. However, 45 per cent of male partners living with women who were in non-manual jobs were themselves in non-manual jobs compared with only 17 per cent of male partners living with women in manual jobs. Similarly, 34 per cent of female partners living with men in manual jobs were themselves in manual jobs compared with only 14 per cent of partners living with men in the non-manual group.

TABLE 9a Social position of cohort member by social position of partner by sex of partner: summary table (base = 4862* couples)

	<u>Non-manual</u>	<u>Manual</u>	
	%	%	<u>N = 100%</u>
<u>Male partners of</u>			
Non-manual women	45	55	2366
Manual women	17	83	1004
Total male partners	37	63	3370
<u>Female partners of</u>			
Non-manual men	86	14	568
Manual men	66	34	924
Total female partners	73	26	1492

19. Table 9b shows that male partners of women in the non-manual group were most likely to be in professional or intermediate jobs, particularly if the cohort member was herself in a professional or intermediate job.

TABLE 9b Current social position of cohort member by current social position of partner by sex of partner (base = 4862* couples)

	<u>Prof. & intermed</u>	<u>Other non-manual</u>	<u>Skilled manual</u>	<u>Other manual</u>	
	%	%	%	%	N = 100%
<u>Male partners of</u>					
Professional and intermediate women	44	14	34	7	547
Other non-manual women	23	18	45	14	1819
Skilled manual women	12	11	60	17	322
Other manual women	7	7	58	28	682
Total male partners	22	15	47	16	3370
<u>Female partners of</u>					
Professional and intermediate men	35	52	4	9	282
Other non-manual men	23	62	6	9	286
Skilled manual men	14	55	9	21	689
Other manual men	11	47	10	32	235
Total female partners	19	54	8	18	1492

* Current social position is not available for 98 cohort members.

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY OF PARTNER

20. The current economic activity of a partner describes whether he or she was economically active or inactive at the time of interview. Economically active partners were engaged in paid employment (full-time or part-time), or were unemployed but seeking work. Economically inactive partners were engaged in full-time education, housework, or extended holiday, in prison or borstal, or prevented from seeking work because of long-term illness or disability. For the purpose of this analysis, only those economically inactive partners engaged in full-time education have been distinguished separately. The great majority (98 per cent) of economically inactive female partners were engaged in full-time housework, and will be so described in the text. Because of this and because of the relatively high proportion of male partners in paid employment (usually full-time employment), comparisons of economic activity are presented separately for male and female partners.

Nature of the partnership

21. The economic activity of partners varied with the nature of the partnership (Table 10), within each sex. Husbands were more likely than male cohabitees to be engaged in paid employment; conversely, male cohabitees were more likely than husbands to be unemployed and seeking work. Among female partners, wives were more likely than female cohabitees to be engaged in full-time housework.
22. Ninety per cent of husbands were employed compared with 77 per cent of male cohabitees, whereas the proportion of male cohabitees who were unemployed and seeking work (19 per cent) was twice that of husbands (9 per cent). Thirty-eight per cent of wives were economically inactive compared with 20 per cent of female cohabitees.

TABLE 10 Nature of partnership by current economic activity
of partner by sex of partner (base = 6369* partners)

	<u>Employed</u>	<u>Unemployed</u>	<u>Full-time education</u>	<u>Other econ. inactive</u>	<u>N = 100%</u>
<u>Male partners of</u>	%	%	%	%	
Married women	90 (3067)	9 (304)	(18)	1 (22)	3411
Cohabiting women	77 (348)	19 (84)	2 (10)	2 (8)	450
Total male partners	88 (3415)	10 (388)	1 (28)	1 (30)	3861
<hr/>					
<u>Female partners of</u>					
Married men	55 (1204)	6 (131)	1 (18)	38 (822)	2175
Cohabiting men	65 (215)	10 (34)	5 (18)	20 (66)	333
Total female partners	57 (1419)	7 (165)	1 (36)	35 (888)	2508

* Current economic activity is not available for 2 partners.

Cohort member's marital status

23. Table 11 shows that the cohabitee's economic activity was associated with the marital status of the respondent. The prevalence of paid employment was greater among cohabitees living with women who had never been married than among cohabitees living with previously married women. On the other hand, the proportion of cohabitees who were unemployed and seeking work was higher among these living with previously married women than among those living with women who had never been married. Among female cohabitees, those living with never-married men were more likely to be employed and less likely to be

engaged in full-time housework than those living with previously married men. However, very few previously married men were cohabiting, and this latter comparison should be treated with caution.

24. Four-fifths of male cohabitees living with never married women were employed compared with 62 per cent of those living with previously married women, whereas the proportion of unemployed men living with previously married women was over twice as great (32 per cent) as the proportion living with women who had never been married (15 per cent).

TABLE 11 Marital status of cohort member by cohabitee's current economic activity by sex of cohabitee (base = 783 cohabitees)

	<u>Employed</u>	<u>Unemployed</u>	<u>Full-time education</u>	<u>Other econ inactive</u>	
<u>Cohabitees of</u>	%	%	%	%	<u>N = 100%</u>
Never married women	81	15	3	1	362
Separated, divorced or widowed women	62	32	-	6	88
Total male cohabitees	77	19	2	2	450
<hr/>					
<u>Cohabitees of</u>					
Never married men	65	10	6	19	306
Separated, divorced or widowed men	59	11	-	30	27
Total female cohabitees	65	10	5	20	333

Children in the family

25. It is not surprising that economic activity among women varied with the presence of children in the family. The majority of female partners in families with children were engaged in full-time housework, although this was less likely to be the case among female cohabitees than among wives. However, male partners in childless families, particularly the cohabitees, were more likely to be in paid employment than male partners in families with children (Table 12 and 13).
26. Thirty-nine per cent of female cohabitees with children were working compared with only 19 per cent of wives with children. The proportion of husbands with children who were employed was greater (85 per cent). that the proportion of male cohabitees with children (60 per cent). However, only 4 per cent of childless husbands and 13 per cent of childless male cohabitees were unemployed, compared with 14 per cent of husbands with children and 35 per cent of male cohabitees with children.

Further analysis is needed in order to examine the effect of the age of the youngest child on the economic activity of mothers. The younger the child the less likely the mother would be to be working.

TABLE 12 Whether children in family by spouse's current economic activity by sex of spouse (base = 5586 marital partners)

	<u>Employed</u>	<u>Unemployed</u>	<u>Full-time Education</u>	<u>Other econ. inactive</u>	
<u>Husbands</u>	%	%	%	%	<u>N = 100%</u>
With child(ren)	85	14	(2)	1	1662
Without children	95	4	1	(7)	1749
Total husbands	90	9	(18)	1	3411
<u>Wives</u>					
With child(ren)	19	7	(1)	74	944
Without children	84	5	1	10	1231
Total wives	55	6	1	38	2175

TABLE 13 Whether children in family by cohabitee's current economic activity by sex of cohabitee (base =783 cohabitees)

	<u>Employed</u>	<u>Unemployed</u>	<u>Full-time education</u>	<u>Other econ. inactive</u>	
<u>Male cohabitees</u>	%	%	%	%	<u>N = 100%</u>
With child(reb)	60	35	-	5	120
Without children	84	13	3	1	330
Total male cohabitees	77	19	2	2	450
<u>Female cohabitees</u>					
With child(ren)	39	3	1	57	88
Without children	74	13	7	6	245
Total female cohabitees	64	10	5	20	333

Cohort member's economic activity

27. The majority of male partners were in paid employment, irrespective of the economic activity of their partners (Table 14a and 14b). However, the partners of unemployed women were more likely to be unemployed themselves than those living with employed women, and the majority of partners living with employed men were themselves economically active whereas the majority of those living with unemployed men were economically inactive.
28. Nearly four times as many partners of unemployed women were themselves unemployed (19 per cent) as partners of employed women (5 per cent). Sixty-seven per cent of partners living with employed men were themselves economically active, whereas 64 per cent of those living with unemployed men were economically inactive.

TABLE 14a Cohort member's current economic activity by partner's current economic activity by sex of partner (base = 6303* partners)

	<u>Employed</u>	<u>Unemployed</u>	<u>Full-time education</u>	<u>Other econ. inactive</u>	
<u>Male partners of</u>	%	%	%	%	<u>N = 100%</u>
Economically active women) Employed	93	5	1	1	2108
) Unemployed	80	19	1	-	240
Economically inactive women) Full-time education	73	9	18	-	33
) Other econ. inactive	83	16	(1)	1	1427
Total male partners	88	10	1	1	3808
<u>Female partners of</u>					
Economically active men) Employed	61	6	1	32	2174
) Unemployed	25	11	1	63	271
Economically inactive men) Full-time education	64	3	19	14	36
) Other econ. inactive	(5)	(1)	(1)	(7)	14
Total female partners	57	7	1	35	2495

* Current economic activity is not available for 66 cohort members and 2 partners

29. Table 14b. presents a summary of the joint economic activity of couples and shows that in about half the partnerships both partners were employed. Predictably, when only one of the partners was employed, it was much more likely to be the man(36 per cent) than the woman (4 per cent). In eight per cent of partnerships neither partner was employed. Further analysis will examine the effect of family size and marital status on joint economic activity.

TABLE 14b Sex of partner in paid employment (base = 6303 couples)

Partner employed

% Both partners employed	52
% Man only employed	36
% Woman only employed	4
% Neither partner employed	8

N = 100%

6303

PREVIOUS FAMILY STATUS OF PARTNER

30. Members of the cohort who were married or cohabiting when interviewed were asked whether their partner had been married before and whether he or she had any children from a previous relationship. The previous family status of the partner, therefore, distinguishes between those who had been married before (the ever married) and those who had not, and those who had had children and those who had not.

Nature of the partnership

31. The great majority of partners (91 per cent) had neither been married nor had children prior to the current partnership, as Table 15 shows, but nevertheless previous family status varied with the nature of the partnership, particularly among the men. Cohabitees were considerably more likely than spouses to have been married before, or to have had children from a previous relationship, or both.

32. The proportion of cohabitees who had been married before was over four times as great (27 per cent) as the proportion of spouses who had been married before (6 per cent), and 21 per cent of cohabitees had had children from a former relationship compared with 4 per cent of spouses. Further, 19 per cent of cohabiting partners had been married and had had children, compared with only three per cent of spouses.

TABLE 15 Nature of partnership by partner's previous family status by sex of partner (base = 6285* partners)

	<u>Never-married parent</u>	<u>Ever-married parent</u>	<u>Never-married non-parent</u>	<u>Ever-married non-parent</u>	
<u>Male partners of</u>	%	%	%	%	<u>N = 100%</u>
Married women	1 (34)	4 (121)	92 (3081)	3 (109)	3345
Cohabiting women	1 (5)	22 (98)	68 (304)	9 (42)	449
Total male partners	1 (39)	6 (219)	89 (3385)	4 (151)	3794
<hr/>					
<u>Female partners of</u>					
Married men	1 (25)	2 (45)	95 (2055)	2 (34)	2159
Cohabiting men	4 (12)	14 (47)	76 (251)	7 (22)	332
Total female partners	1 (37)	4 (92)	93 (2306)	2 (56)	2491
<hr/>					
<u>All partners of</u>					
Married respondents	1 (59)	3 (166)	93 (5136)	3 (143)	5504
Cohabiting respondents	2 (17)	19 (145)	71 (555)	8 (64)	781
Total all partners	1 (76)	5 (311)	91 (5691)	3 (207)	6285

* The previous family status is not available for 86 partners.

Cohort member's marital status

33. The cohabitee's previous family status varied with the cohort member's marital status, particularly among the men (Table 16). Cohabitees who had been married before or who had become parents before the start of the partnership were twice as likely as those who had not to be living with cohort members who had been married before. This association was particularly strong among male cohabitees; 37 per cent of men who were living with previously married women had been married and had children, compared with 18 per cent of those living with women who had never been married.

TABLE 16 Marital status of cohort member by cohabitee's previous family status by sex of cohabitee (base = 781 cohabitees)

	<u>Never-</u> <u>married</u> <u>parent</u>	<u>Ever-</u> <u>married</u> <u>parent</u>	<u>Never-</u> <u>married</u> <u>non-parent</u>	<u>Ever-</u> <u>married</u> <u>non-parent</u>	<u>N = 100%</u>
<u>Cohabitees of</u>	%	%	%	%	
Never married women	1	18	73	8	362
Separated, divorced or widowed women	3	37	45	15	87
Total male cohabitees	1	22	68	9	449
<u>Cohabitees of</u>					
Never married men	4	14	76	6	304
Separated, divorced or widowed men	3	18	68	11	28
Total female cohabitees	4	14	76	7	332
<u>Cohabitees of</u>					
All never married respondents	2	16	75	7	666
All separated, divorced or widowed respondents	3	32	50	14	115
Total cohabitees	2	19	71	8	781

Children in the family

34. The previous family status of cohabitees, but not spouses, varied with the presence of children in the family (Tables 17 and 18). The Association was stronger among male cohabitees than among female cohabitees. Cohabitees who had had children from a previous relationship or who had been married before, or both, were more likely than those who had not to be living in a family with children.
35. Thirty per cent of cohabitees with children in the family had had children from a former relationship compared with only 18 per cent of cohabitees in childless families, and the proportion of cohabitees with children who had been married before was greater (38 per cent) than the proportion of those in childless families (23 per cent). Among male cohabitees, the proportion of those bringing up children who had been married before and had had children from a previous relationship was almost twice as great (33 per cent) as those in childless families (18 per cent).

TABLE 17 Whether children in family by spouses's previous family status by sex of spouse (base = 5504 spouses)

	<u>Never-married parent</u>	<u>Ever-married parent</u>	<u>Never-married non-parent</u>	<u>Ever-married non-parent</u>	
<u>Husbands</u>	%	%	%	%	<u>N = 100%</u>
With child(ren)	1	4	91	4	1620
Without children	1	3	93	3	1725
Total husbands	1	4	92	3	3345
<u>Wives</u>					
With child(ren)	1	3	94	1	917
Without children	(11)	2	96	2	1242
Total wives	1	2	95	2	2159
<u>All spouses</u>					
With child(ren)	1	4	92	3	2537
Without children	1	2	94	2	2967
Total spouses	1	3	93	3	5504

TABLE 18 Whether children in family by cohabitee's previous family status by sex of cohabitee (base = 781 cohabitees)

	<u>Never-married parent</u>	<u>Ever-married parent</u>	<u>Never-married non-parent</u>	<u>Ever-married non-parent</u>	
<u>Male cohabitees</u>	%	%	%	%	N = 100%
With child(ren)	2	33	52	13	123
Without children	(2)	18	74	8	326
Total male cohabitees	1	22	68	9	449
<hr/>					
<u>Female cohabitees</u>					
With child(ren)	5	17	71	6	63
Without children	3	13	77	7	269
Total female cohabitees	4	14	76	7	332
<hr/>					
<u>All cohabitees</u>					
With child(ren)	3	27	59	11	186
Without children	2	16	75	7	595
Total all cohabitees	2	19	71	8	781

PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS

36. In the majority of cases the current partner was the first partner of the cohort member (Working Paper No.20, para 25). Examination of their characteristics will therefore form an integral part of the following analyses:
- (a) What factors predispose towards teenage parenthood, teenage marriage or teenage cohabitation (Working Paper no.9, para 45(b))
 - (b) What factors predispose individuals to cohabit rather than marry, and what is the effect of these factors on the duration of the partnership (Working Paper No.20, paras 38(a) and (d))?
 - (c) Do the material circumstances of families vary with the nature of the family unit (married and cohabiting couples with and without children, lone parents who have and have not been married or cohabited), and to what extent is any variation associated with the characteristics of couples?
 - (d) It will be necessary to examine the association between the age of the partner and his or her social position, economic activity and previous family status in further analyses.