

Cohabitation

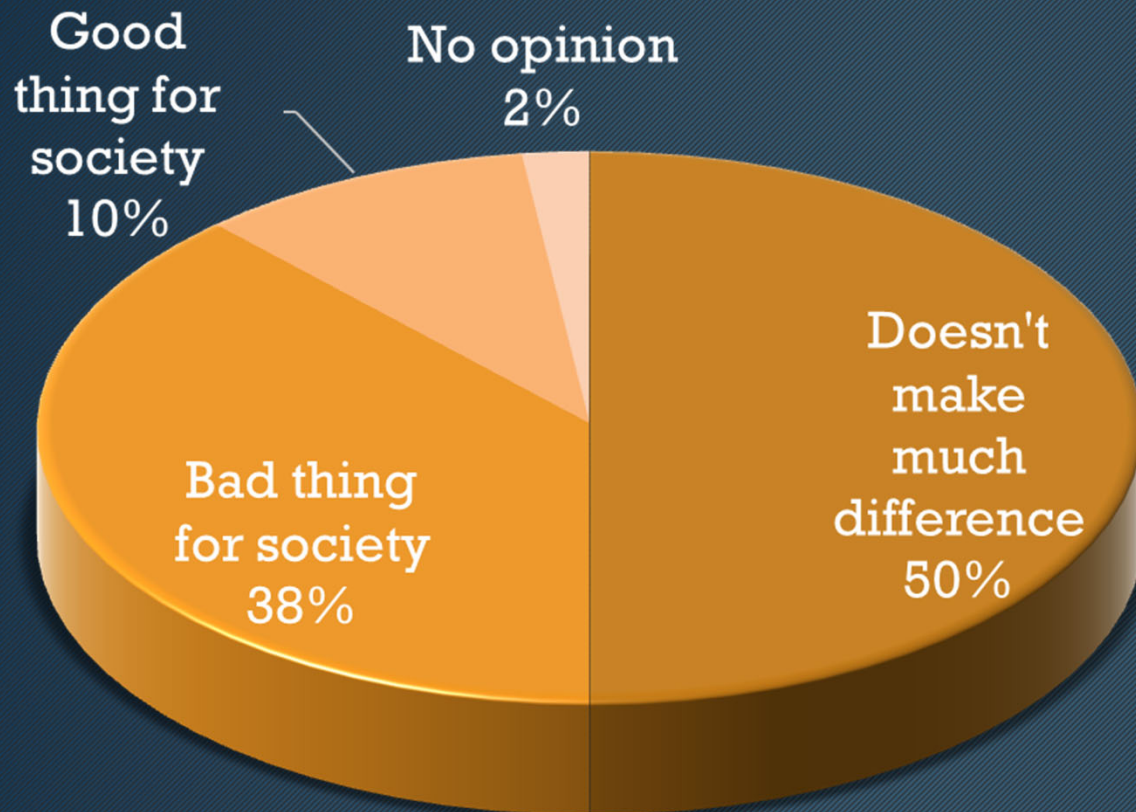
Cohabitation: Good Or Bad?

Why Does Cohabitation Look That Way?

What About Having Kids?



More people living together without getting married is generally a . . .

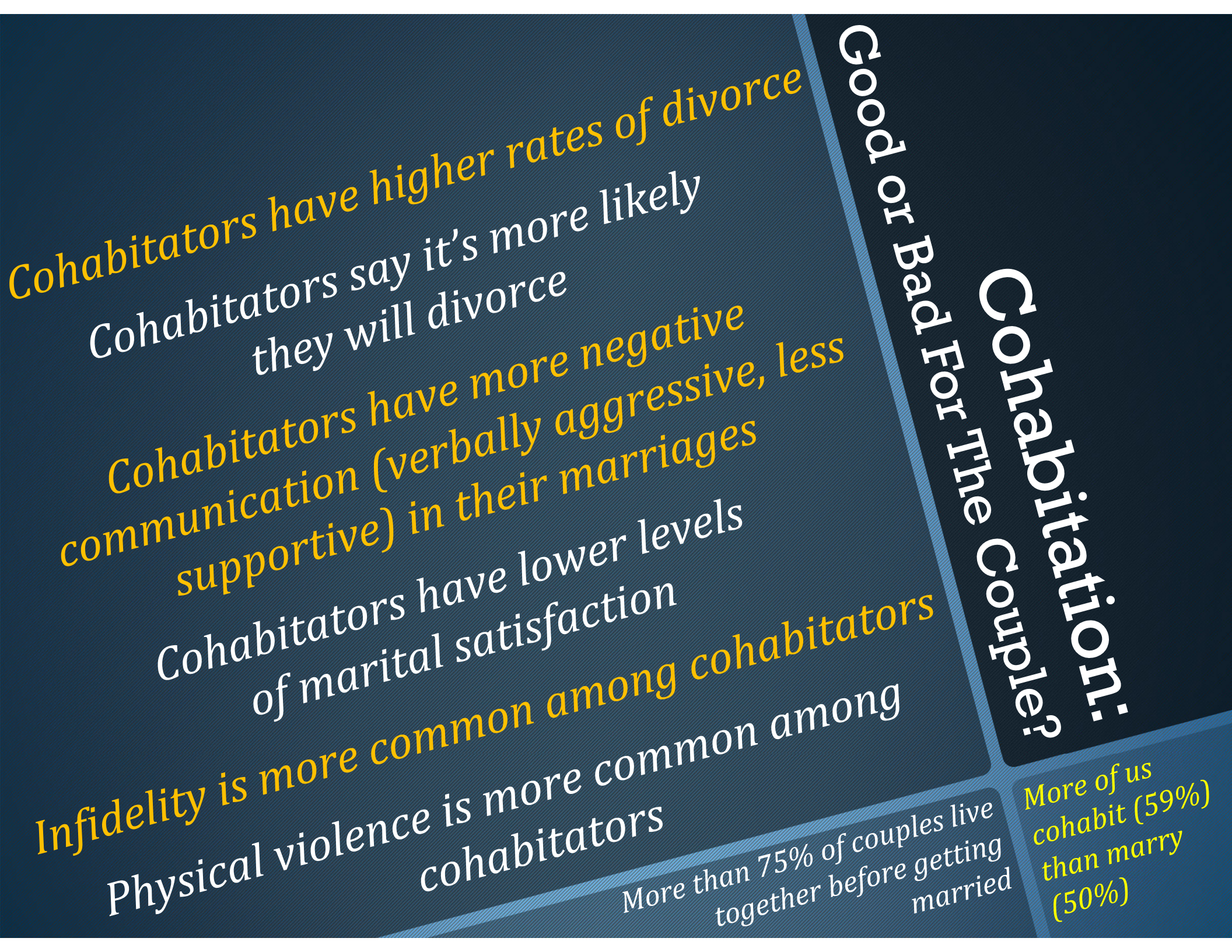


Pew Research Center 2010

**Cohabitation:
Good or Bad For Society**

More than 75% of couples live together before getting married

More of us cohabit (59%) than marry (50%)



Selection

Who cohabitates matters

They're more liberal and less religious

Cohabitation Impermanence

Less respect for commitment

They believe romantic relationships are disposable

Normalization

Less stigma for both things

They don't believe either thing is all that bad

Sliding vs. Deciding

Less thoughtful commitments

They "happen into" cohabitation

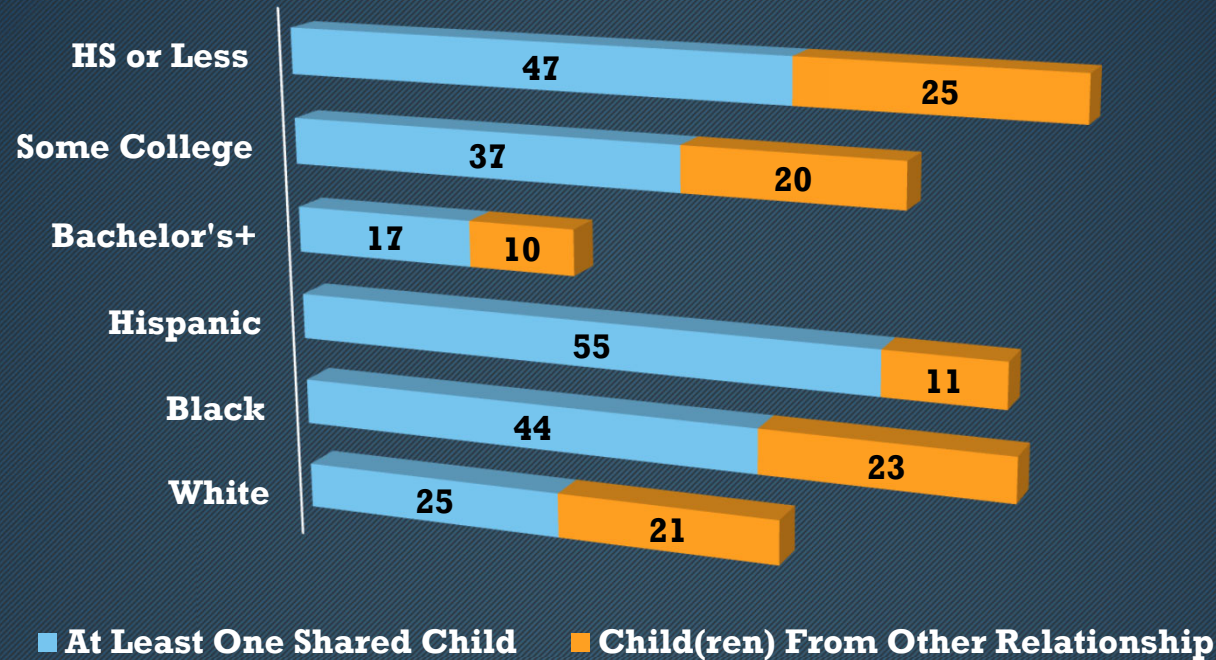
**Cohabitation:
Why Such Bad Outcomes?**

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What About Having Kids?

Cohabitors With Children Under 19 In Home (Pew 2017)



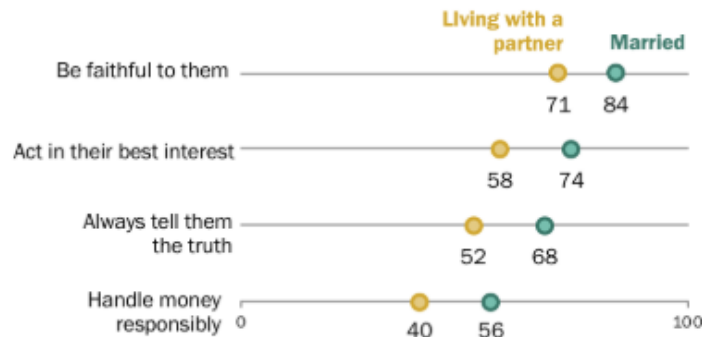
In a five-year study, 50% of cohabiting parents broke up while only 20% of married parents did

Having kids makes the cohabitation more marriage-like, but the trajectory is often the same

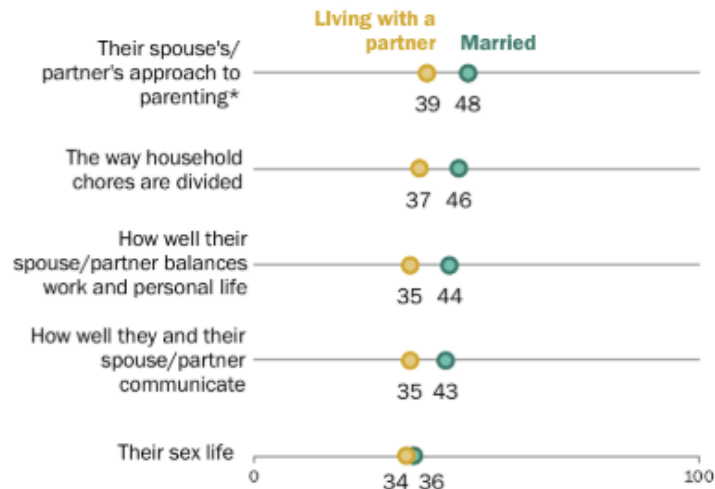
Discussion

Higher levels of trust and satisfaction among married than cohabiting adults

% of adults who are married or living with a partner saying they trust their spouse or partner a great deal to ...



% saying they are very satisfied with ...



* Based on those with children younger than 18 in the household.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 25-July 8, 2019.

"Marriage and Cohabitation in the U.S."

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Do you think cohabitation “causes” relationship instability, or are the people who chose to cohabit already more likely to have unstable relationships? Can we ever really separate the two?

One benefit of cohabitation? Women in these relationships report greater satisfaction with division of household labor than married women. Why?! How might exchange theory offer an explanation for this finding?

If cohabitation is becoming the norm, maybe we shouldn't compare it to marriage at all. What if we studied it as its own relationship form. What patterns would we look for?