

## Cohabitation and the Measurement of Child Poverty Tables

Table 1. Number and Percent of Persons in Poverty, by Demographic Group, with Separate and Combined Income of Cohabiting Couples

	Number of Persons (millions)	Census Procedure, Separate Units		Income of Cohabitators Combined		Change: Number Poor	Poverty Rate	
		Number Poor	Poverty Rate	Number Poor	Poverty Rate		Percentage Points	Percent
All persons	240.7	31.3	13.0	30.0	12.5	-1.3	-0.5	-4.2
All children	62.9	11.7	18.7	11.4	18.1	-0.4	-0.6	-3.0
Children in single- parent families	15.4	7.2	46.6	6.8	44.3	-0.4	-2.3	-5.0
Children in cohabi- ting parent families	2.0	0.9	44.4	0.5	26.9	-0.4	-17.5	-39.4

Note: Cohabitators are those where the head of the household reported living with an unmarried partner. Living arrangements are reported for April 1990; income, for calendar year 1989.

Table 2. Transitions into and out of Poverty for Children in Cohabiting Unions

	Children Living with Cohabiting Parents		Mean Income-to-Needs Ratio	
	Number (millions)	Percent	Separate	Combined
(1) Poor as separate, poor as combined	0.519	25.5	0.39	0.55
(2) Poor as separate, not poor as combined	0.385	18.9	0.57	1.75
(3) Not poor as separate, poor as combined	0.029	1.4	1.08	0.91
(4) Not poor as separate, not poor as combine	1.104	54.2	2.46	3.17
All children in cohabiting unions	2.037	100.0	1.55	2.20
Net reduction in poor children	0.357			

Note: The net reduction in the number of poor children is the difference between rows (2) and (3). The income-to-needs ratio is defined as family income divided by the poverty line.

Table 3. Descriptive Statistics for Cohabiting Families with Children

	Poor Separate, Poor Combined (N=228,103)	Poor Separate, Not Poor Combined (N=201,239)	Not Poor Separat Poor Combined (N=14,009)	Not Poor Separate, Not Poor Combined (N=697,027)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
<u>Parent:</u>				
Received welfare income in previous year	38.9	31.3	13.8	6.4
Was unemployed or not in labor force in survey	59.9	53.2	24.6	11.7

Had no earnings in previous year	47.5	35.8	13.4	3.9
Mean earnings	\$2,279	\$3,465	\$8,915	\$21,818
Education				
Less than H.S.	55.1	42.5	47.2	24.3
High school	29.5	32.9	29.2	36.2
More than H.S.	15.4	24.5	23.7	39.5
Percent ever-married	43.6	50.2	47.7	64.9
Percent female	60.3	75.5	29.9	45.8
<u>Cohabitor:</u>				
Was unemployed or not in labor force in survey	59.1	19.7	83.4	29.0
Had no earnings in previous year	46.3	5.7	77.0	17.3
Mean earnings	\$2,294	\$15,615	\$268	\$13,380
Education				
Less than H.S.	58.4	39.5	59.5	28.9
High school	28.7	36.0	26.9	38.7
More than H.S.	12.9	24.5	13.6	32.4

Table 4. Number and Percent of Children Living with Single Parents and Cohabiting Parents who Receive Welfare Income, Classified by their Poverty Status when Separate and Combined

\*\*\*Final table shown below\*\*\*

	Children Living with Single Parents			Children Living with Cohabiting Parents		
	Total (millions)	Number with Welfare Income (millions)	Percent (of row)	Total (millions)	Number with Welfare Income (millions)	Percent (of row)
(1) Poor as separate, poor as combined	6,774,179	3,577,331	52.8	519,412	223,339	43.0
(2) Poor as separate, not poor as combined	385,411	133,528	34.6	385,411	133,528	34.6
(3) Not poor as separate, poor as combined	28,749	5,440	18.9	28,749	5,440	18.9
(4) Not poor as separate, not poor as combined	8,162,733	1,146,337	14.0	1,103,696	87,758	8.0
Total	15,351,072	4,862,636	31.7	2,037,268	450,065	22.1

Note: Welfare income includes any cash assistance from AFDC, Supplemental Security Income or General Assistance. The numbers in rows (2) and (3) are identical for children living with single parents and cohabiting parents, because only children with cohabiting parents can change poverty status when income is combined.

Table 4. Number and Percent of Children Living with Single Parents and Cohabiting Parents who Receive Welfare Income, Classified by their Poverty Status when Separate and Combined

	Children Living with Single Parents			Children Living with Cohabiting Parents		
	Total (millions)	Number with Welfare Income (millions)	Percent (of row)	Total (millions)	Number with Welfare Income (millions)	Percent (of row)
(1) Poor as separate, poor as combined	6.77	3.58	52.8	0.52	0.22	43.0
(2) Poor as separate, not poor as combined	0.39	0.13	34.6	0.39	0.13	34.6

(3) Not poor as separate, poor as combined	0.03	0.01	18.9	0.03	0.01	18.9
(4) Not poor as separate, not poor as combined	8.16	1.15	14.0	1.10	0.09	8.0
Total	15.4	4.9	31.7	2.0	0.5	22.1

Note: Welfare income includes any cash assistance from AFDC, Supplemental Security Income or General Assistance. The numbers in rows (2) and (3) are identical for children living with single parents and cohabiting parents, because only children with cohabiting parents can change poverty status when income is combined.

Table 5. Estimated Coefficients of Logistic Regression Models: Likelihood that Poor Families with Children Will Be Reclassified as Non-Poor When a Cohabitor's Income Is Counted

	Model 1			Model 2		
	B	SE	Exp (B)	B	SE	Exp (B)
Race/ethnic origin of parent						
White, non-Hispanic	(excluded)			(excluded)		
Black, non-Hispanic	0.0634	0.1916	1.0654	0.2379	0.2134	1.2686
Puerto Rican	0.5459	0.3353	1.7262	0.6387 <sup>a</sup>	0.3733	1.8940
Mexican	0.0415	0.2179	1.0424	0.1029	0.2390	1.1084
Other Hispanic	-0.2031	0.2765	0.8162	-0.2643	0.3040	0.7677
Other non-Hispanic	-0.4320 <sup>b</sup>	0.2106	0.6492	-0.5014 <sup>b</sup>	0.2317	0.6057
Race/ethnic origin of cohabitor						
White, non-Hispanic	(excluded)			(excluded)		
Black, non-Hispanic	-0.5490 <sup>c</sup>	0.1876	0.5775	-0.5529 <sup>c</sup>	0.2085	0.5753
Puerto Rican	-1.0176 <sup>c</sup>	0.3586	0.3614	-0.9577 <sup>b</sup>	0.3996	0.3838
Mexican	-0.0587	0.2148	0.9429	-0.2432	0.2339	0.7841
Other Hispanic	-0.1421	0.2623	0.8675	-0.2464	0.2864	0.7816
Other non-Hispanic	-0.4408 <sup>b</sup>	0.2131	0.6435	-0.4956 <sup>b</sup>	0.2336	0.6092
Marital status of parent						
Never-married	(excluded)			(excluded)		
Ever-married	0.2079 <sup>b</sup>	0.0828	1.2311	0.1571 <sup>a</sup>	0.0916	1.1701
Age of parent						
Age of parent	-0.0283	0.0214	0.9721	-0.0294	0.0240	0.9711
Age of parent (squared)	0.0002	0.0003	1.0002	0.0003	0.0003	1.0003
Age of cohabitor						
Age of cohabitor	0.0928 <sup>c</sup>	0.0219	1.0973	0.0773 <sup>c</sup>	0.0251	1.0804
Age of cohabitor (squared)	-0.0009	0.0003	0.9991	-0.0005	0.0003	0.9995
Education of parent						
Less than H.S.	(excluded)			(excluded)		
High school	0.1275	0.0810	1.1360	0.0758	0.0902	1.0787
More than H.S.	0.3325 <sup>c</sup>	0.0982	1.3944	0.2621 <sup>b</sup>	0.1093	1.2996
Education of cohabitor						
Less than H.S.	(excluded)			(excluded)		
High school	0.6874 <sup>c</sup>	0.0801	1.9885	0.5645 <sup>c</sup>	0.0890	1.7586
More than H.S.	0.9189 <sup>c</sup>	0.1011	2.5066	0.6641 <sup>c</sup>	0.1109	1.9428
Sex of parent						
Male	(excluded)			(excluded)		
Female	0.7631 <sup>c</sup>	0.0801	2.1450	0.5310 <sup>c</sup>	0.0967	1.7007
SMSA						
Non-metro area	(excluded)			(excluded)		
Metro area	0.3360 <sup>c</sup>	0.0773	1.3993	0.3856 <sup>c</sup>	0.0854	1.4705

<sup>a</sup>p<.1   <sup>b</sup>p<.05<sup>c</sup>   p<.01>

Table 5 (continued). Estimated Coefficients of Logistic Regression Models: Likelihood that Poor Families with Children Will Be Reclassified as Non-Poor When a Cohabitor's Income Is Counted

	Model 1			Model 2		
	B	SE	Exp (B)	B	SE	Exp (B)

Region						
Northeast	(excluded)			(excluded)		
Midwest	-0.2399 <sup>b</sup>	0.1095	0.7867	-0.2711 <sup>b</sup>	0.1246	0.7626
South	-0.2796 <sup>c</sup>	0.1055	0.7561	-0.5786 <sup>c</sup>	0.1199	0.5607
West	0.0040	0.1148	1.0040	-0.0824	0.1291	0.9209
Number of children less than	-0.3041 <sup>c</sup>	0.0317	0.7378	-0.2782 <sup>c</sup>	0.0349	0.7572
Parent received welfare income						
None				(excluded)		
Some				-0.2299 <sup>b</sup>	0.0921	0.7946
Earnings of parent						
Negative/none				(excluded)		
Positive				0.4791 <sup>c</sup>	0.0855	1.6147
Earnings of cohabitor						
Negative/none				(excluded)		
Positive				2.5808 <sup>c</sup>	0.1190	13.2081

<sup>a</sup>p<.1   <sup>b</sup>p<.05   <sup>c</sup>p<.01

Note: 'Parent' refers to the partner with child(ren) when the cohabiting partners are treated units. 'Cohabitor' refers to the partner whose income is combined when the couple is counted as a single household unit. Only families that are counted as poor by the Census are included in the regressions; each family is counted once.

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Table 6. Predicted Probabilities that a Poor Single-Mother Family Will Be Reclassified as Non-Poor when a Cohabitor's Income Is Counted

Model 1

A. Mother is Ever-Married

White mother with no HS degree and white cohabitor with no HS degree	0.62
Black mother with no HS degree and black cohabitor with no HS degree	0.50
Mexican mother with no HS degree and Mexican cohabitor with no HS degree	0.61
White mother with a HS degree and white cohabitor with a HS degree	0.79

B. Mother is Never-Married

Black mother with no HS degree and black cohabitor with no HS degree	0.45
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Model 2

C. White mother and cohabitor; both have no HS degree; mother is on welfare

Cohabitor has no earnings	0.13
Cohabitor has some earnings	0.66

D. White mother and cohabitor; both have no HS degree; mother is not on welfare

Mother has no earnings; cohabitor has some earnings	0.71
Both mother and cohabitor have some earnings	0.80

Note: All predictions assume the child's mother is age 30, she has two children, she lives in a metropolitan area in the Northeast region, and she cohabits with a man who is age 35.

The mother is assumed to have been previously married, except in Panel B.

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Appendix Table. Characteristics of Unweighted Sample of Cohabiting Families with Children Who are Poor When Income is Counted Separately (In percent)

(N=4,001)

Race/ethnic origin of parent	
White, non-Hispanic	58.1
Black, non-Hispanic	24.2
Puerto Rican	2.4
Mexican	7.0
Other Hispanic	3.2
Other non-Hispanic	5.0
Race/ethnic origin of cohabitor	
White, non-Hispanic	57.0
Black, non-Hispanic	25.4
Puerto Rican	2.1
Mexican	7.2
Other Hispanic	3.5
Other non-Hispanic	4.8
Marital status of parent	
Never-married	51.3
Ever-married	48.7
Sex of parent	
Male	33.9
Female	66.1
Age of parent (mean)	30.8
Age of cohabitor (mean)	30.9
Education of parent	
Less than H.S.	49.3
High school	31.4
More than H.S.	19.2
Education of cohabitor	
Less than H.S.	49.8
High school	32.4
More than H.S.	17.7

Appendix Table (continued). Characteristics of Unweighted Sample of Cohabiting Families with Children Who are Poor When Income is Counted Separately (In percent)

(N=4,001)

Non-metro area	32.8
Metro area	67.2
Region	
Northeast	18.6
Midwest	22.9
South	33.6
West	24.9
Total number of children (combined)	
One	36.2
Two	32.6
Three	18.7
Four or more	12.5
Parent received welfare income	
None	65.5
Some	34.5
Earnings of parent	
Negative/none	41.5

Positive	58.5
Earnings of cohabitor	
Negative/none	26.9
Positive	73.1

Note: 'Parent' refers to the partner with child(ren) when the cohabiting partners are treated as two separate households. 'Cohabitor' refers to the partner whose income is combined when the couple is counted as a single household unit.