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Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division Working Paper

Increase in Opposite-sex Cohabiting Couples from 2009 to 2010 in the Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) to the Current Population Survey (CPS)

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Increase in cohabiting couples between 2009 and 2010

This paper reports on an unusually large increase in cohabiting couples noted between the 2009 and 2010 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) to the Current Population Survey (CPS). I will first establish that this increase represents a true demographic change in living arrangements of couples and is not the result of any changes in data collection or processing. Next I will examine the characteristics of unmarried couples in 2009 and 2010 and offer some suggestions about factors that may have contributed to this observed increase.

Between 2009 and 2010, there was a 13 percent increase, (868,000) in the number of opposite-sex couples who were cohabiting.¹ In 2009, there were an estimated 6.7 million unmarried couples living together, while in 2010, there were 7.5 million. As the difference column shows in Table 1, most of this increase (760,000) was in those who reported being a householder and

¹ The estimates in this working paper (which may be shown in text, figures, and tables) are based on responses of a sample of the population and may differ from the actual values because of sampling variability or other factors. As a result, apparent differences between the estimates for two or more groups may not be statistically significant. All comparative statements have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level unless otherwise noted.

unmarried partner.² Between 2007 and 2008 there was a 5 percent increase and between 2008 and 2009 there was a 2 percent decrease (not statistically significant) in the ASEC estimates of opposite-sex cohabiting couples.³

The increase is not related to changes in the data processing system.

As most shifts in family composition happen relatively slowly, this investigation is undertaken to understand this unexpected increase in cohabiting couples. Since apparent changes in data series are sometimes created by changes to the way the data are processed, it is important to first rule out this type of explanation.⁴ After much analysis, Census Bureau staff considered all changes to the processing system that could have produced the increase in cohabiting couples and concluded that no steps in the processing system could have created the increase. I discuss two aspects of processing below as they relate to the estimates of cohabiting couples.

1. When changes are made to the weighting scheme, this can affect various estimates, especially those which have relatively small populations or which are not controlled to independent population estimates. It is often one of the first steps to investigate when looking for a processing related explanation for an unexpected change in estimates. However, no changes were made to

² In the Current Population Survey, respondents can report being unmarried couples in two ways. They can report that a household member is the unmarried partner of the householder on the relationship to householder question, or they can report having a partner in response to a direct question asked of adults who have nonrelatives living with them. This direct question asks whether they have a “boyfriend/girlfriend or partner in this household.”

³ For the estimates, see historical table UC-I, accessible at: <http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/hh-fam.html>.

⁴ The processing system includes data cleaning, editing, allocation and weighting which are all done after the interview is collected, and before the data or published products are released to the public.

the ASEC weighting program between 2009 and 2010. In the unweighted sample, the increase in opposite-sex cohabiting couples was 11.5 percent, and in the weighted sample, the increase was 13.0 percent. So sample weights did not create the increase in cohabiting couples.

2. Census Bureau data are edited to resolve inconsistencies that may be in the data as reported. Several small changes were made to the demographic edit concerning cohabiting couples. One change affected estimates of same-sex cohabiting couples since it edited those who reported being same-sex married couples to be unmarried cohabiting couples. The change was implemented beginning in January of 2010, and corresponds to the increase in same-sex couples noted in Table 2. This increase was of the magnitude expected, and the estimates of same-sex couples from CPS data now compare well with American Community Survey (ACS) estimates.⁵

Another small change to the demographic edit affected opposite-sex couples and resulted in the cohabitation pointer⁶ being blanked out for inconsistencies. This change actually works in the opposite direction to the increase, but was so small that it had no substantive effect. The editing process does not allocate adults to be in cohabiting couples, so the increase in opposite-sex couples is not a result of the editing process, or changes to the demographic edit.

The increase is reported, and reflects a real change in household composition.

⁵ ASEC 2010 estimates 620,000 same-sex couples, while ACS 2008 estimated about 565,000. These estimates do not differ statistically.

⁶ Each data record contains a variable called PECOHA, which contains the line number of the record holder's cohabiting partner.

Since the increase was not due to changes in the weighting or other aspects of the processing system, and occurs in the reported data, we conclude that the estimates show a real change in household composition. While the ASEC data are used for many of the Census Bureau's published tables, the CPS is collected monthly. Table 2 and Figure 1 illustrate the change in the monthly basic CPS estimates of cohabiting couples from January of 2009 through July of 2010. Beginning in January 2010, estimates of opposite-sex cohabiting couples comparing each month of 2010 show a significant increase over the same months in 2009. The level of about 7.4 million opposite-sex couples carries through each month from March through July of 2010.

How does the ASEC 2010 estimate compare with other data?

When data show a marked increase in any measure, a comparison with independent estimates can provide some idea of whether the increase is legitimate. Since it is still being collected, we do not yet have ACS 2010 data to compare with the ASEC 2010 estimate. The ACS 2009 estimate of 5.9 million opposite-sex cohabiting couples, is lower than the total 7.5 million ASEC estimate. This is expected, given that the ASEC estimate is collected differently. The CPS has a direct question that includes additional couples not reported through the relationship to householder item (couples where neither partner is the householder). However, when comparing only those unmarried opposite-sex couples which include the householder, the ASEC estimate of 6.1 million (Table 1) does not differ statistically from the 5.9 million estimate in the 2009 ACS. ACS is also collected mainly through a mail-out mail-back survey rather than with an interviewer as ASEC is.

The Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) 2008 panel yields a weighted estimate of 6.7 million opposite-sex cohabiting couples based on the household relationship matrix, which also includes couples where neither partner is the householder.⁷ The SIPP estimate was collected at the beginning of 2009 during January, February, March and April. So this estimate matches the ASEC 2009 estimate of 6.7 million which was also collected in February, March and April of 2009, but is lower than the ASEC 2010 estimate of 7.5 million couples.

Next I examine the characteristics of unmarried opposite-sex couples in 2009 and 2010 and offer some suggestions about factors that may have contributed to the observed increase. I compare employment characteristics for all of the couples across years, as well as for couples who have been together at least a year compared with those who began living together in the year prior to the survey.

How do couples who recently began cohabiting differ from those who have been together longer?

Since CPS collects living arrangements at the time of the survey and does not have a cohabitation history, we do not know how long couples have been together. However, because of the sampling design of the CPS, we can compare some couples that were formed within the last year with some couples who have been together for at least a year. When addresses are in the CPS sample, they are interviewed for 4 consecutive months, are out for the next 8 months, and then

⁷ This estimate was calculated from the Household Relationship Topical Module from Wave 2 of the 2008 panel of the Survey of Income and Program Participation. It does not appear in any of the tables.

return to the sample again for 4 months. So for a small portion of the ASEC 2010 sample, we also have 2009 interview data. For these households we can compare those who were not cohabiting in 2009 but had a partner in 2010 (newly formed couples) with those who were cohabiting at both time points (existing couples). Differences between these two groups will show whether the newly formed couples differ in some way from couples who were already together.

If more couples are moving in together, there might be some precipitating economic reason for the move, such as a job loss, or the inability to support the cost of two homes. If the primary factor driving the increase is economic, we would expect that the newly formed couples would differ from those who were already living together in terms of whether they were employed.

Before comparing newly formed couples with existing couples though, Table 3 shows the differences in employment for ASEC 2008, 2009, and 2010 for all opposite-sex cohabiting couples. A general shift toward less employment is clear. While in 2008, 59 percent of the couples had both partners employed, this decreased to 52 percent in 2009 and 49 percent in 2010. Correspondingly, the percentage of couples in which one partner was employed and the other was unemployed increased from 8 percent in 2008 to 15 percent in 2010.⁸

⁸ The percentage of couples in which one partner was employed and the other was unemployed in 2009 and 2010 did not differ statistically.

Newly formed couples in 2010 had a lower proportion with both partners employed (39 percent) than couples who were already together (50 percent).⁹

This general decrease in employment among cohabiting couples might by itself demonstrate a contributing factor to the increase in cohabiting couples, since it is presumably more cost effective to maintain a single residence rather than each partner living separately. But a further comparison of newly formed couples in 2010 may provide insight into the reason the number of couples increased substantially between 2009 and 2010. Table 4 compares the two groups of couples for whom we have two data points. Existing couples are those who fall into sample in both years, and were cohabiting in both years. Newly formed couples are those in which one partner was interviewed in both years, and this partner reported a partner in the household only at the second time point. Employment is shown as of the later year.

Newly formed couples in 2010 had a lower percentage with both partners employed (39 percent) than do the existing couples from the same time point (50 percent). For newly formed couples in 2009, although the percentage appears to be lower (50 percent) than for existing couples (55 percent), this difference is not statistically significant. The fact that a significantly lower percentage of the newly formed couples have both partners employed in 2010 than couples who were already living together in 2010 while this was not the case for new couples in 2009, may reflect couple's responses to ongoing difficulty of finding jobs in 2010 as the recession continues. In CPS, people are considered unemployed if they are still looking for a job, but are

⁹ This analysis does not reweight households interviewed in both 2009 and 2010 to known control totals. Percentages shown in Tables 4, 5 and 6 for these two groups of couples have been weighted using the ASEC 2010 weight.

not working. There are other people who have given up on finding a job and are not in the labor force.

While a lower proportion of newly formed couples in 2010 have both partners employed, it is interesting to note that there are no significant differences among the four groups of couples (existing and newly formed for both years) in the percentage where at least one partner is employed. Pooling resources by moving in together may be one method of coping with extended unemployment of one of the partners.

Couples move in together for a variety of reasons. Economic factors are often key.¹⁰ The move may be precipitated by the loss of employment by one of the partners. Or the lease may be up on the apartment for the other partner. This comparison of newly formed couples with those who were already together suggests that labor force factors such as unemployment may have played a role in the creation of more cohabiting couples in 2010 than in 2009.

Another useful comparison to make is of newly formed couples in 2010 with newly formed couples in 2009. This comparison should show us whether there is something distinct about those couples that formed between the 2009 and 2010 interviews, compared with couples that formed between the 2008 and 2009 interviews.

¹⁰ Sassler, Sharon. 2004. "The process of entering into cohabiting unions," *Journal of Marriage and Family*, Vol 66:2:491-505.

In addition to current unemployment, it would be useful to know whether partners in newly formed couples in 2010 worked less than those in newly formed couples in 2009. If so, this would support the idea that long-term unemployment is an increasingly important factor pushing couples to move in together. In order to further explore whether loss of employment or long-term unemployment was an especially common precipitating factor for the cohabitation of newly formed couples in ASEC 2010, I looked at the work status of both partners in the calendar year before the survey.

In the interviews (conducted in early 2010), respondents were asked whether they worked at all during calendar 2009. For those who reported having worked in 2009, they were asked the number of weeks they worked. If the newly formed couples formed primarily for economic reasons, we would expect that a higher proportion of them did not work during the last calendar year than couples who were newly formed at the 2009 interview. Although both men and women are shown in the table, I focus on men's employment since they are often paid more than women, and since women are more likely to work part-time or stay out of the labor force in order to raise children.

A higher percentage of men in newly formed couples in 2010 did not work last year (24 percent) than men in newly formed couples in 2009 (14 percent).

In comparing newly formed couples in 2010 with newly formed couples in 2009, we see that a higher percentage of men in the couples formed in 2010 did not work in the last year (24 percent compared with 14 percent, respectively) (see Table 5). Similar changes are also apparent for the

men in the existing couples, so the increase in the proportion of men who did not work in the year prior to the interview occurred for men in both the existing and the newly formed couples. This higher proportion of men who had not worked in the past year may have contributed to more couples moving in together.

Newly formed couples in 2010 had a higher proportion of men who did not work last year than newly formed couples in 2009, and a higher proportion of new couples in 2010 did not have both partners employed, compared with couples who had already been together at least a year. The relatively more precarious economic situation of these couples may have contributed to their decision to move in together.

Partners in newly formed couples in 2010 were younger, less likely to be White, non-Hispanic and more likely to live in the South or to live in households with 5 or more members than couples who were already living together.

To get a sense of whether these couples also differ from existing couples on demographic characteristics, Table 6 shows some individual and couple level characteristics such as age, race, origin, region, household size and household income. Partners in newly formed couples in 2010 were younger than those in existing couples. While 37 percent of the men in the new couples were age 15 to 29, this was true for just 23 percent of the men in existing couples. Similarly for women, 45 percent in the new couples were age 15 to 29, compared with 32 percent in the existing couples. Newly formed couples were less likely to be White non-Hispanic. Fifty seven percent were made up of two White non-Hispanic members, compared with 68 percent of the

existing couples. A higher percentage of the newly formed couples lived in the South than did existing couples—38 percent compared with 29 percent, respectively. Newly formed couples lived in larger households. Twenty four percent lived in households with 5 or more members, compared with 15 percent of those in existing couples who lived in households this large.¹¹

Consolidating housing resources with others may be one way to cope with longer-term unemployment. A higher percentage of newly formed couples had household incomes of \$20,000 to \$49,999 than existing couples—37 percent compared with 31 percent. However, since many were in larger households, this income needed to support more people.

Conclusion

Taken together, the ways in which newly formed couples in 2010 differed from existing couples suggest that economic situations such as longer-term unemployment may have contributed to the increase in opposite-sex cohabiting couples between 2009 and 2010. The recession began at the end of 2007, so why wouldn't such an increase happen earlier? Perhaps the length of unemployment resulted in people exhausting other methods of coping—unemployment benefits, savings accounts, available credit, or assistance from friends and family. The fact that a higher proportion of the new couples are younger may also make it more difficult for them to find jobs in a tough economy where older workers with more skills are also looking for jobs.

¹¹ There is some evidence of an increase in families doubling up in households over the last two years. For example, the number of related subfamilies increased from 3.9 million in 2008 to 4.3 million in 2010—an increase of 11.5 percent. There was also an increase in the proportion of young adults age 25 to 34 who were living in their parents' households (reported as child of the householder). The proportion of all 25-34 year olds who were living as a child of the householder increased from 12.7 percent in 2008 to 13.4 percent in 2010. The proportion of all households with only one person also decreased from 2008 (27.5 percent) to 2010 (26.7 percent).

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Table 1. Estimates of Cohabiting Couples, ASEC 2009 and 2010

(Numbers in thousands.)

Couple type	ASEC 2009		ASEC 2010		Difference 2010-2009
	Number	Margin of error/1	Number	Margin of error/1	
TOTAL opposite sex couples	6,661	216	7,529	229	868
Householder and unmarried partner	5,356	194	6,117	207	760
Householder and nonrelative	674	69	639	68	(35)
Nonrelative and nonrelative	92	26	120	29	28
Relative and nonrelative	418	55	471	58	53
Other combination	121	29	182	35	61
Same sex couples	476	58	620	67	144
TOTAL couples	7,137	224	8,149	238	1,012

For more information about CPS, see the technical documentation accessible at:

<http://www.census.gov/aprd/techdoc/cps/cps-main.html>.

/1 This number, when added to and subtracted from the estimate represents the 90-percent confidence interval around the estimate.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey,
Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC), 2009 and 2010.

Table 2. Estimates of cohabiting couples, Basic CPS January 2009 through July 2010

Couple type	2009											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
TOTAL opposite sex	6,598	6,626	6,605	6,773	6,881	6,888	6,952	6,773	6,726	6,789	6,664	6,750
Householder and unmarried partner	5,473	5,501	5,523	5,627	5,742	5,769	5,862	5,766	5,730	5,669	5,530	5,555
Householder and nonrelative	693	709	678	692	699	677	693	654	601	647	637	709
Nonrelative and nonrelative	83	61	72	69	76	64	46	47	53	86	79	84
Relative and nonrelative	349	355	332	386	365	378	351	306	343	388	417	401
Same sex couples	564	492	467	490	493	515	506	510	496	526	521	485
TOTAL couples	7,161	7,118	7,072	7,263	7,375	7,403	7,458	7,283	7,222	7,315	7,185	7,235
Couple type	2010											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul					
TOTAL opposite sex	6,915	7,043	7,365	7,468	7,468	7,401	7,416					
Householder and unmarried partner	5,762	5,864	6,200	6,305	6,322	6,263	6,223					
Householder and nonrelative	685	672	637	628	653	678	693					
Nonrelative and nonrelative	81	82	103	102	95	76	90					
Relative and nonrelative	386	425	425	433	398	383	410					
Same sex couples	622	573	601	619	598	675	628					
TOTAL couples	7,537	7,616	7,966	8,087	8,066	8,076	8,044					

For more information about CPS, see the technical documentation accessible at: <http://www.census.gov/apspd/techdoc/cps/cps-main.html>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2009 and 2010.

Table 3. Unmarried opposite sex couples in 2008, 2009 and 2010 ASEC
(Numbers in thousands.)

Couple's Employment	ASEC 2008			ASEC 2009			ASEC 2010		
	Unmarried couples			Unmarried couples			Unmarried couples		
	Number	Percent	Margin of error/1	Number	Percent	Margin of error/1	Number	Percent	Margin of error/1
TOTAL	6,799	100.0	X	6,661	100.0	X	7,529	100.0	X
Both partners in labor force	4,587	67.5	1.5	4,476	67.2	1.6	5,013	66.6	1.5
Both Employed	3,978	58.5	1.6	3,471	52.1 *	1.6	3,706	49.2 *	1.5
One Employed, One Unemployed	546	8.0	0.9	884	13.3 *	1.1	1,105	14.7	1.1
Both Unemployed	63	0.9	0.3	121	1.8 *	0.4	202	2.7 *	0.5
Only male in labor force	1,287	18.9	1.3	1,190	17.9	1.3	1,395	18.5	1.2
Male Employed	1,143	16.8	1.2	976	14.7 *	1.2	1,155	15.3	1.1
Male Unemployed	144	2.1	0.5	214	3.2 *	0.6	240	3.2	0.5
Only female in labor force	500	7.4	0.9	519	7.8	0.9	543	7.2	0.8
Female Employed	457	6.7	0.8	454	6.8	0.8	483	6.4	0.8
Female Unemployed	43	0.6	0.3	65	1.0	0.3	60	0.8	0.3
Neither partner in labor force									
Neither Employed	425	6.3	0.8	475	7.1	0.8	577	* 7.7	0.8

X - Not applicable.

* - The percent to the left of the asterisk differs significantly at the $p < .10$ level from the corresponding percent for the next earlier year.

For more information about CPS, see the technical documentation accessible at: <http://www.census.gov/apscd/techdoc/cps/cps-main.html>.

NOTE: Existing couples are those in the ASEC sample who were interviewed two consecutive years and had the same partner in both years. Newly formed couples contain one partner who was interviewed in two consecutive years of ASEC, and had no partner at the earlier year, and reported a partner at the later year. Employment is shown for the later year for existing and newly formed couples.

/1 This number, when added to and subtracted from the estimate, represents the 90-percent confidence interval around the estimate.

Source: Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2008, 2009, 2010.

Table 4. Newly formed and longer-term unmarried opposite sex couples in 2009 and 2010 ASEC
(Numbers in thousands.)

Couple's Employment	ASEC 2009				ASEC 2010			
	Existing couples		Newly formed couples		Existing couples		Newly formed couples	
	Percent	Margin of error/1	Percent	Margin of error/1	Percent	Margin of error/1	Percent	Margin of error/1
TOTAL	100.0	X	100.0	X	100.0	X	100.0	X
Both partners in labor force	65.9	3.5	64.1	6.2	64.5	3.5	61.4	5.5
Both Employed	54.8	3.7	49.2	6.4	49.6	3.6	38.5	5.4
One Employed, One Unemployed	10.1	2.2	14.1	4.5	13.1	2.5	19.1	4.4
Both Unemployed	1.0	0.7	0.8	1.2	1.8	1.0	3.8	2.1
Only male in labor force	16.5	2.7	17.7	4.9	17.3	2.8	17.6	4.3
Male Employed	12.7	2.4	13.3	4.4	14.7	2.6	15.6	4.1
Male Unemployed	3.8	1.4	4.4	2.6	2.6	1.2	2.0	1.5
Only female in labor force	9.0	2.1	10.3	3.9	8.8	2.1	10.7	3.5
Female Employed	7.7	2.0	9.7	3.8	7.7	1.9	9.9	3.3
Female Unemployed	1.2	0.8	0.6	1.1	1.1	0.8	0.8	0.9
Neither partner in labor force								
Neither Employed	8.5	2.1	7.7	3.4	9.5	2.1	10.5	3.4

X - Not applicable.

For more information about CPS, see the technical documentation accessible at: <http://www.census.gov/apscd/techdoc/cps/cps-main.html>.

NOTE: Existing couples are those in the ASEC sample who were interviewed two consecutive years and had the same partner in both years. Newly formed couples contain one partner who was interviewed in two consecutive years of ASEC, and had no partner at the earlier year, and reported a partner at the later year. Employment is shown for the later year for existing and newly formed couples.

/1 This number, when added to and subtracted from the estimate, represents the 90-percent confidence interval around the estimate.

Source: Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2009, 2010.

Table 5. Unmarried opposite sex couples' employment last year: ASEC

	ASEC 2009				ASEC 2010			
	Existing couples		Newly formed couples		Existing couples		Newly formed couples	
	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
Weeks worked during year before survey								
Total (percent)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Worked last year	82.9	76.4	86.3	73.8	78.6	71.1	76.0	70.6
Worked 1 to 51 weeks last year	19.2	17.8	33.6	22.8	21.8	17.3	25.7	19.0
Worked all 52 weeks last year	63.7	58.5	52.7	51.1	56.8	53.8	50.3	51.6
Did not work last year	17.1	23.6	13.7	26.2	21.4	28.9	24.0	29.4
Margin of error/1 (for percent)								
Worked last year	2.8	3.1	4.4	5.6	3.0	3.3	4.8	5.1
Worked 1 to 51 weeks last year	2.9	2.8	6.1	5.4	3.0	2.8	4.9	4.4
Worked all 52 weeks last year	3.5	3.6	6.4	6.4	3.6	3.6	5.6	5.6
Did not work last year	2.8	3.1	4.4	5.6	3.0	3.3	4.8	5.1

For more information about CPS, see the technical documentation accessible at: <http://www.census.gov/apscd/techdoc/cps/cps-main.html>.

NOTE: Existing couples are those in the ASEC sample who were interviewed two consecutive years and had the same partner in both years. Newly formed couples contain one partner who was interviewed in two consecutive years of ASEC, and had no partner at the earlier year, and reported a partner at the later year.

/1 This number, when added to and subtracted from the estimate, represents the 90-percent confidence interval around the estimate.

Source: Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2009, 2010.

Table 6. Demographic Characteristics of Existing and Newly Formed Opposite Sex Couples, ASEC 2010

Characteristic	ASEC 2010			
	Existing couples		Newly formed couples	
	Percent	Margin of error/ ¹	Percent	Margin of error/ ¹
TOTAL	100.0	X	100.0	X
MALE'S AGE				
15 to 29 years	23.2	2.9	37.4 *	5.0
30 to 44 years	36.2	3.2	36.5	5.0
45 and over	40.5	3.3	26.0 *	4.6
FEMALE'S AGE				
15 to 29 years	32.2	3.2	45.4 *	5.2
30 to 44 years	32.3	3.2	32.5	4.9
45 and over	35.6	3.2	22.3 *	4.3
RACE/ORIGIN DIFFERENCE/ ²				
Both White non-Hispanic	67.6	3.2	57.0 *	5.1
Both Black non-Hispanic	6.8	1.7	11.4 *	3.3
Both Other non-Hispanic	2.7	1.1	2.6	1.6
Both Hispanic	11.1	2.1	13.5	3.5
Neither Hispanic, different groups	4.3	1.4	6.9	2.6
One Hispanic, other non-Hispanic	7.6	1.8	8.6	2.9
REGION				
Northeast	20.3	2.7	15.8	3.8
Midwest	24.0	2.9	23.0	4.4
South	28.7	3.1	38.0 *	5.0
West	27.0	3.0	23.2	4.4
SIZE OF HOUSEHOLD				
Two members	49.8	3.4	45.1	5.2
Three members	21.4	2.8	18.0	4.0
Four members	14.3	2.4	13.5	3.5
Five or more members	14.5	2.4	23.5 *	4.4
HOUSEHOLD INCOME				
Household Income Under \$20,000	11.3	2.1	12.8	3.5
\$20,000 to \$49,999	30.6	3.1	36.5 *	5.0
\$50,000 and over	58.0	3.3	50.8 *	5.2

X - Not applicable.

* - The percent to the left of the asterisk differs significantly at the $p < .10$ level from the corresponding percent for existing couples.

For more information about CPS, see the technical documentation accessible at:

<http://www.census.gov/aprd/techdoc/cps/cps-main.html>.

NOTE: Existing couples are those in the ASEC sample who were interviewed two consecutive years and had the same partner in both years. Newly formed couples contain one partner who was interviewed in two consecutive years of ASEC, and had no partner at the earlier year, and reported

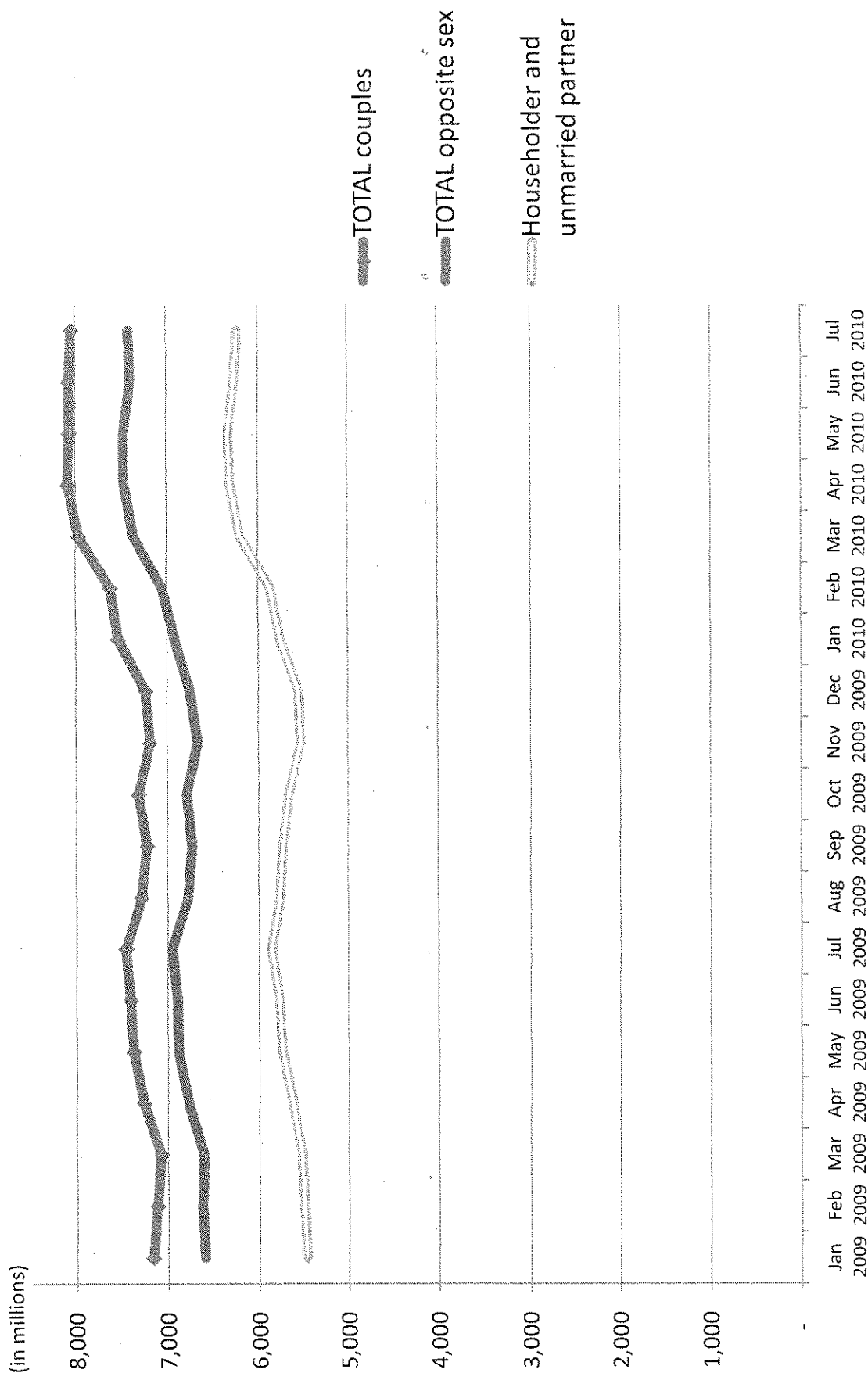
NOTE: Education not shown since there were not significant differences to discuss.

¹ This number, when added to and subtracted from the estimate, represents the 90-percent confidence interval.

² Hispanics may be of any race.

Source: Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2009, 2010.

Figure 1. Estimates of Cohabiting Couples from Basic CPS, January 2009 to July 2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, January 2009 to June 2010.