

# COHABITING

(Josh McDowell research 2006 to present)

## **“COHABITATION UNHEALTHY FOR MARRIAGE, STUDIES CONTINUE TO CONFIRM”**

“The 2008 U.S. Census reported 13.6 million unmarried, heterosexual couples live together.”

Roger Greer, “Cohabitation Unhealthy for Marriage, Studies Continue to Confirm,” CitizenLink, July 10, 2009 (<http://www.citizenlink.org/content/A000010474.cfm>).

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## **“COHABITATION.”**

“Cohabitation. Between 50% and 60% of all American marriages begin with the partners cohabitating. Yet living together before marriage increases the chances of divorce in a first marriage. 67% of cohabitating couples eventually divorce vs. the first marriage norm of 45%. The number of cohabitating couples has soared from about 439,000 in 1960 to more than 5 million in '08. About 10% of couples who married between '65 and '74 lived together before marriage vs. more than 50% today. (Baptist Press 3/26/08)”

(Gary D. Foster, “Religious Market Update,” The FOSTER Letter, 2008)

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## **“GROWING UP MARRIED, GROWING UP COMMON-LAW”**

“Is marriage falling out of favour? In trend-setting Hollywood celebrity couples like funny-man Jim Carrey and partner Jenny McCarthy have dismissed marriage as just a piece of paper. [1] Oscar winner Halle Berry has sworn off marriage as well, telling a reporter “I don’t think you need a piece of paper for the child to feel loved or legitimate.” [2] Certainly, love and legitimacy are not confined to marriage, but living common-law and living as a married couple are two very different decisions, particularly when children are involved.”

“The study finds that teens who as children had parents living common-law are more likely than teens of married parents to:

- smoke
- sell drugs
- engage in sexual intercourse
- have a lower age of sexual initiation
- have poor relationships with their mom and dad
- have parents who do not get along”

“An American study found that unwed parents experience significantly more partner changes. This increases the stress on children, leading to modest increases in behavioural problems. [4] Other studies have found correlations between multi-partner change and early sexual initiation among boys and early childbearing among girls. [5]”

“Finally, common-law parents may be less committed to raising children. Union instability and frequent partner change may be a factor. American sociologist Bradford Wilcox also reports that married fathers are more likely to demonstrate affection to their wives and families than cohabitating men. [6]”

Peter Jon Mitchell, “Growing Up Married, Growing Up Common-Law,” eReview, Institute of Marriage and Family Canada, March 11, 2009; ([http://www.imfcanada.org/article\\_files/eReview%20-March%2011,%202009.pdf](http://www.imfcanada.org/article_files/eReview%20-March%2011,%202009.pdf)).

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### “COHABITATION ENDS IN SEPARATION 90% OF THE TIME”

“A study published by the journal, Demography, has shown that cohabitation is not the road to happy marriage, or even to a happy relationship, but rather ends in separation 90% of the time.”

“The study’s lead researcher, Daniel Lichter a professor of policy analysis at Cornell University said, “The common view of cohabitation as a steppingstone to marriage needs to be seriously questioned””

““Instead, serial cohabitation may be an emerging norm as cohabiting unions form and break up. If marriage promotion programs hope to target poor cohabiting women, our results seemingly suggest that the likelihood of success is not assured.””

“The study showed that one-half of all cohabiting unions end within a year and 90 percent within five years. The study showed that the common failure of cohabitation affects poor women more severely since they tend to rely financially on their live-in partners.”

(Hilary White, “Cohabitation Ends in Separation 90% of the Time” LifeSite News, July 21, 2006, [www.lifesitenews.com](http://www.lifesitenews.com) )

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### “COHABITATION”

“COHABITATION is growing. 35 to 40 years ago cohabitation was rare; it was socially taboo. Growth by decade was: ‘60s (up 19%), ‘70s (up 204%), ‘80s (up 80%), ‘90s (up 66%), but up only 7.7% between ‘00 and ‘04. All told, cohabitation is up eleven-fold.” (U.S. Census Bureau, *Unmarried-Couple Households, by Presence of Children: 1960 to Present, Table UC-1, 6/12/03*)

(“Cohabitation,” from The Foster Letter – Religious Market Update, October 10, 2007, [www.GaryDFoster.com](http://www.GaryDFoster.com))

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### “COHABITORS”

“Cohabitors who never marry have 78% less wealth than the continuously married’ cohabitors who have been divorced or widowed once have 68% less wealth.”

(Cohabitation Facts website)

(“Cohabitors,” from The Foster Letter – Religious Market Update, October 25, 2007, p2,  
[www.GaryDFoster.com](http://www.GaryDFoster.com))

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