

COHABITATION AND CONTRACEPTIVE USE IN THE UNITED STATES: A FOCUS ON RACE AND ETHNICITY

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Introduction

- Cohabitation has become a common context for childbearing.
- Contraceptive use proximate determinant of fertility.
- Consider contraceptive use for cohabitators and marrieds along with race/ethnic variation.

(Musick and Michelmore 2015; Kennedy and Bumpass 2008; Manning and Stykes 2015)

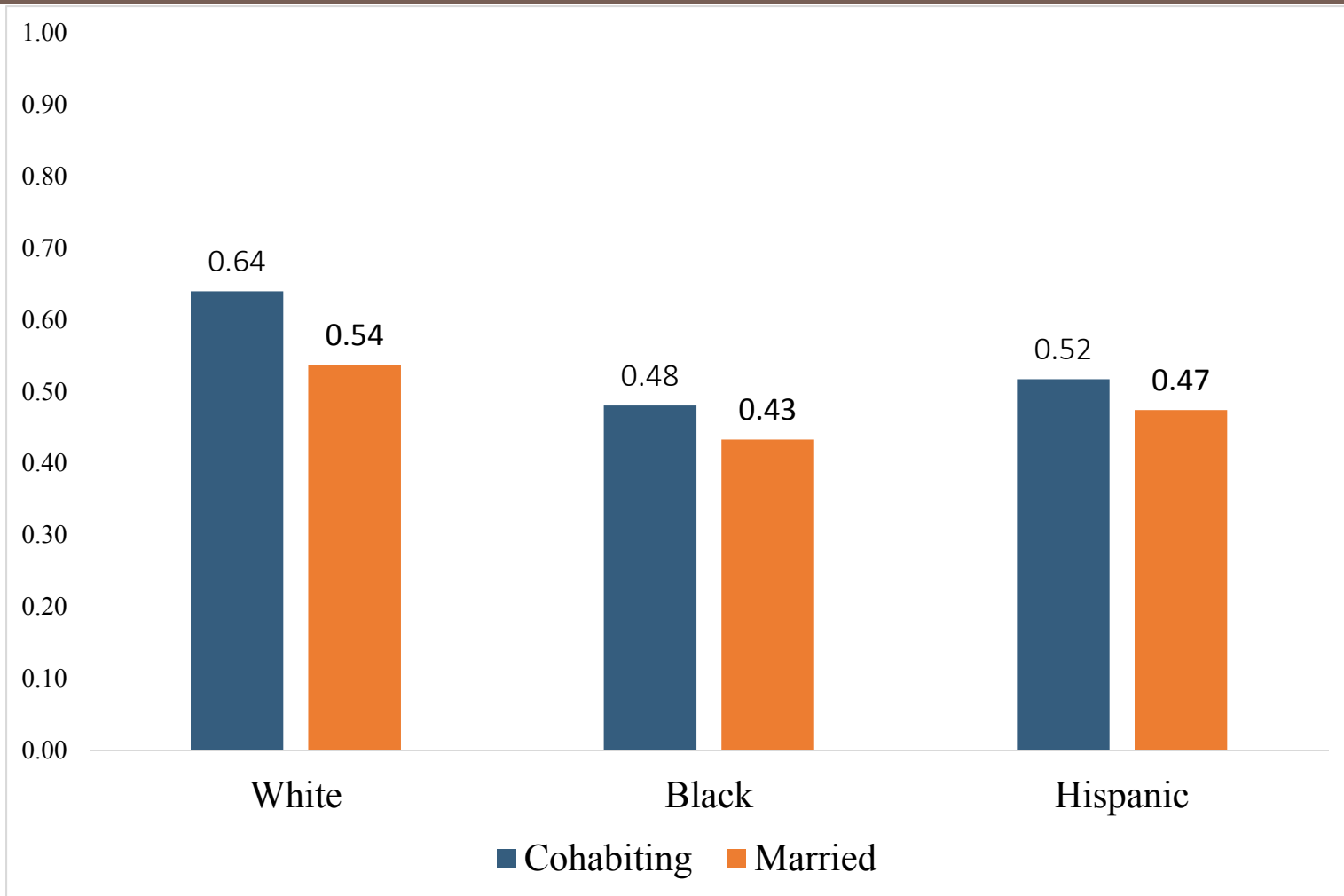
Data & Methods

- 2013-2015 NSFG (N=2285) women ages 15-44.
- Currently Married ($n=1523$; 67%) & Currently Cohabiting ($n=762$; 33%).
- Dependent variable: effective contraceptive use.
- Logistic regression and predicted probabilities.

Effective Contraceptive Use

Independent variables	Model 1	Model 2
Union status (ref. Married)	β	β
Cohabitation	0.369*	0.328#
Race/ethnicity (ref. White)		
Hispanic	-0.369*	-0.317*
Black	-0.474**	-0.441**
Parity (ref. no birth)		
1	-0.255	-0.257
2	0.987***	1.015***
3 or more	1.149***	1.201***
Age	0.008	0.008
Union duration	0.003	0.004
Model 2 includes controls for education and religiosity (#p<1.0; *<.05; **p<.01; ***p<.001)		

Predicted Probability of Women's Effective Contraceptive Use



Conclusion

- Cohabitors and marrieds differ in contraceptive use.
- White cohabitators are driving cohabitation vs. married contraceptive use patterns.
- Fertility behaviors will remain salient signals of cohabitation's place in America.

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