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Short-Term Coresidence in the Panel Study of Income Dynamics

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1. Introduction

This technical report uses data from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID) Short-Term Coresidents module administered during the 2003 Core interview to describe reported short-term coresidence in PSID family units since 2001. Since these data were collected, research in family demography has increasingly emphasized the dynamic quality of family composition and the frequent occurrence but brief duration of some types of living arrangements, including cohabitation, coresidence with extended kin, and doubled-up households. The purpose of this report is to describe the observed prevalence and duration of short-term coresidence reported in PSID at one wave so that users may assess to what extent dynamic family living arrangements are potentially underestimated when this information is not collected.

The report includes four parts: (1) estimated prevalence and duration of short-term coresidence in family units; (2) social and demographic characteristics of family units that experienced short-term coresidence in comparison to those that did not; (3) demographic characteristics of the individuals who were short-term coresidents; and (4) estimates of the prevalence and duration of cohabiting unions over the two-year period with and without taking short-term coresidence into account.

We offer four main findings: (1) Overall, 3.2% of re-interview families in 2003 had at least one person who lived in the family unit between two interview waves but who was not present in the family unit in 2001 or 2003. (2) Short-term coresidence was most frequent in post-1968 immigrant families, family units headed by a member of a racial or ethnic minority, and family units characterized by markers of socioeconomic disadvantage, including female headship, and householders' lower educational attainment. (3) Short-term coresidents were more likely to be extended kin, nonrelatives, or a cohabiting partner of the family unit head compared to family unit members who were present at the time of the 2003 interview. (4) We focus on cohabitation, or coresidential romantic relationships, as a specific type of living arrangement for which estimates of prevalence and duration over a two-year period may be impacted by accounting for short-term coresidence. The impact is modest: When short-term unions were accounted for, the share of householders who cohabited between 2001 and 2003 increased 4.0% (0.3 percentage points) and the average length of a cohabiting union between waves among those who cohabited decreased by 1.1% (-0.208 months) compared to estimates that consider only cohabiting unions that were intact at the time of the 2001 or 2003 interview.

2. Background

What is short-term coresidence?

Short-term coresidence refers to a relatively brief period – usually less than a year – during which an individual resides in a household headed by someone else. It includes arrangements that are understood to be temporary at the outset as well as arrangements that are expected to be permanent but that endure only for a short time. Examples include a family member or friend's temporary coresidence with a householder after losing a primary residence due to an event such as an eviction, foreclosure, evacuation, or marital or cohabitation separation; an extended stay to give or receive physical care during an illness or recovery; spells of doubling up with kin in a

single household to share living expenses; or a short-lived cohabiting romantic relationship. In the context of longitudinal household survey research, short-term coresidence is defined as a living arrangement that begins and ends between two adjacent interview waves. Because longitudinal cohort and panel studies vary in their periodicity, this definition is operational rather than fixed.

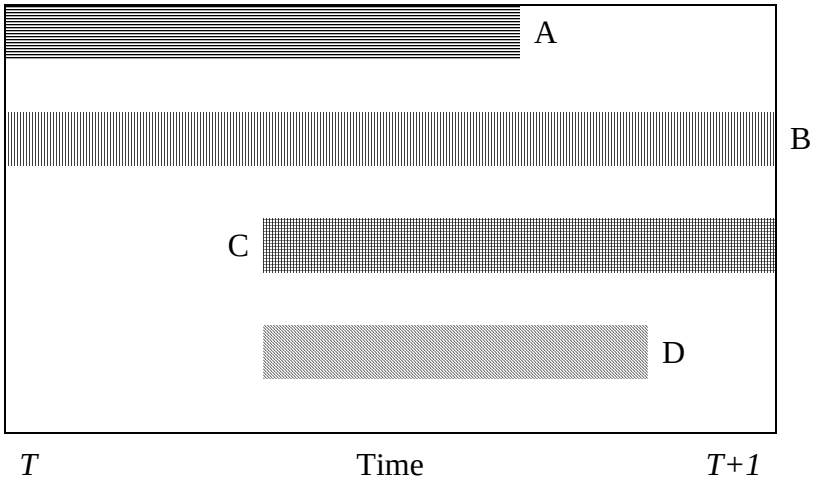
Spells of short-term coresidence are common (Monte 2017) and may be more likely to occur in economically vulnerable families and during periods of high unemployment or economic recession, contexts in which strategies like doubling up and extended kin coresidence are used to achieve economic security (Daw et al. 2016; Pilkauskas et al. 2014; Wiemers 2014). Because most household rosters in longitudinal surveys do not collect information about coresidence spells that fall between interview waves, assessments of the prevalence and correlates of household structure instability and dynamic family household composition may be incomplete (Monte 2017). Yet in the context of longitudinal cohort or panel studies, recall error may lead respondents to underreport the occurrence of short-term coresidence or to report erroneous dates and duration of coresidence when asked (Gerber et al. 1996). The research value of data collection on reported short-term coresidence must be balanced against its expected accuracy, added interview time, cognitive burden to the respondent, instrument programming, and data processing.

Short-term coresidence in PSID

At each survey wave, the PSID family unit roster collects demographic information about all individuals currently living in the family unit as well as individuals living in the household at last interview who have since departed through death, institutionalization, or entry into a new household. The family unit roster does not collect information about individuals who both entered and exited the family unit during the interval between survey waves. Because this short-term coresidence in the family unit is not measured, the characterization of family unit composition in PSID is potentially skewed toward family unit members who are more stably present.

To illustrate the approach, Figure 1 describes a hypothetical set of individuals occupying a PSID family unit during the interval bracketed by survey waves in calendar years *T* and *T+1*. Person A was present in the family unit at the time *T* interview and moved away before the *T+1* interview. Person B was present at both the time *T* and time *T+1* interviews. Person C moved into the household between time *T* and time *T+1* and was present at the *T+1* interview. Person D moved into the family unit and then moved out between the two interviews. At time *T+1*, the standard PSID family unit roster treats person B as continuously in the family unit and obtains the move-out and move-in dates for persons A and C respectively but collects no information about person D.

Figure 1. Schematic of family unit residence between two survey waves



Impact of short-term coresidence on estimates of cohabitation prevalence and duration

The inclusion or exclusion of short-term coresidence from household rosters in longitudinal studies affects estimates of the prevalence and duration of any type of living arrangement. Estimates pertaining to cohabitation are particularly sensitive to this measurement issue because many people experience cohabiting unions and, compared to marriage, these unions are shorter on average and more prone to dissolution. In 2002, a period roughly contemporaneous with the administration of the Short-Term Coresidents module, 54% of women age 19-44 years had ever cohabited, with the experience more common in younger cohorts. Among recent cohabitors in that year, an estimated 24% had dissolved their cohabiting unions within two years (Kennedy and Bumpass 2008). Although their average duration has since increased, cohabiting unions remain shorter and less likely to persist compared to marriage (Copen et al. 2013). Further, they are experienced by an increasing majority of young adults; as of 2011-15, 78% of women age 29-31 had been in a cohabiting union (Manning 2020). Thus, to the extent that the exclusion of short-term coresidence from longitudinal data collection threatens the validity of population-level estimates of the prevalence and duration of cohabiting unions, the concern continues to be relevant.

The exclusion of short-term coresidence could have two effects on how cohabiting unions are characterized. First, this exclusion could bias estimated prevalence of cohabitation over a given period *downward* by overlooking unions that begin and end between survey waves. Second, this exclusion could bias estimates of cohabitation duration *upward* among those who ever cohabited if between-wave cohabiting unions that are unobserved are shorter than cohabiting unions in progress at the time of interview. We provide estimates of the share of 2003 family unit householders who experienced a cohabiting union between 2001 and 2003 and the duration of those unions before and after accounting for unions that were reported in the Short-Term Coresidents module.

3. Data

The risk of overlooking spells of short-term coresidence in PSID increased when the interview schedule transitioned from annual to biennial periodicity after 1997. In order to estimate the amount and characteristics of short-term coresidence that occurred during the two-year interval between survey waves under the new interview schedule, a one-time Short-Term Coresidents module was included in the 2003 PSID questionnaire (Panel Study of Income Dynamics 2021).

All family units responding to the 2003 PSID interview were eligible to complete the Short-Term Coresidents (STC) module (N=7,822 family units). Respondents reported whether anyone had moved into the family unit for a period of at least four months and then moved out between the two interview waves and provided each short-term coresident person's sex, relationship to the 2003 family unit head, and the move-in and move-out month and year. During data processing, each short-term coresident was assigned a PSID clan number (ER30001) and unique person number (ER30002).

The module rostered a total of 397 short-term coresident individuals reported by 288 PSID family units. Data and documentation for the Short-Term Coresidents module is available as a packaged auxiliary file in the PSID Data Center (https://simba.isr.umich.edu/Zips/AuxiliaryFiles.aspx). Each record describes a short-term coresident associated with a PSID family unit.

Sample

This report describes four features of short-term coresidence. The analytic sample for each is described below. Estimates for the first three features are weighted using the 2003 PSID longitudinal family sampling weight and are generalizable to families in 2003 that had been present in the United States at least since 1997.[1] The restriction to include family units with a valid sampling weight excludes 257 family units and 16 short-term coresidents associated with those family units. Estimates for the fourth feature are weighted using the 2003 longitudinal person weight and are generalizable to individuals in 2003 who are in family units that have been present in the United States at least since 1997. For conceptual clarity, we removed one record for an individual who appeared in the short-term coresidence file but who was also present in the reporting family unit in 2003 (ER30001=5641, ER30002=33).

(1) Prevalence of short-term coresidence in PSID family units. The unit of analysis is PSID family units in the 2003 interview wave (N=7,565).

(2) *Characteristics of family units that included short-term coresidents.* We compare family units in the analytic sample that included at least one short-term coresident between 2001 and 2003 (N=274) to those family units that did not include any short-term coresidents during the interval (N=7,291) with regard to the 2003 family unit head's sex, age, educational attainment, race and Hispanic ethnicity and the family unit's sample stratum

[1] PSID follows family units regardless of where they reside. A small number of family units resided outside of the United States in 2003 but either had been present in the United States in 1968 (when the original sample was recruited) or in 1997 (when the first immigrant refresher sample was recruited) or were descended from one of those recruited families.

(Survey of Economic Opportunity low-income oversample, Survey Research Center general population sample, or 1997-99 immigrant refresher).

(3) *Characteristics of short-term coresidents and duration of stay.* We describe the composition of short-term coresidents (N=380) with regard to sex and relationship to current family unit head and compare this group to family unit members who were present at the 2003 interview (N=13,096). Current family unit heads are excluded from this comparison because short-term coresidents could not be classified as family unit heads themselves.
We also describe the duration of short-term coresidence spells overall and by relationship to head. Where month of move-in or move-out is unknown but season is known (N=26), we impute to the first full calendar month of the season (e.g., Spring=April). When season is also unknown, we impute to June (N=3). We make further minor adjustments to the imputation of move-in and move-out dates to ensure that the imputed dates precede the 2003 interview date. When year of move-in or move-out is unknown, we impute the duration of coresidence to the overall mean (N=14).

(4) *Impact of short-term coresidence on estimates of cohabitation prevalence and duration.* We describe the prevalence and duration of cohabiting unions among followable PSID sample members who occupied the status of head or spouse/partner in 2001 and 2003 with a valid longitudinal person weight in 2003 (N=7,063). Note that it is necessary only to occupy one of these statuses in each wave to appear in the analytic sample; it is not necessary to occupy the *same* status in each wave.[2]

Both weighted and unweighted estimates are presented. Where relevant, weighted group differences are assessed for statistical significance at $p<.05$.

Results

Prevalence of short-term coresidence and family unit characteristics

Table 1 describes the characteristics of family units stratified by whether the family unit experienced short-term coresidence between 2001 and 2003.

Overall, 3.2% of family units experienced short-term coresidence during the preceding two years. Compared to family units where there was no short-term coresidence, family units that included a short-term coresident were less likely to have a male head in 2003 (59.5% male in family units with short-term coresidence vs. 70.2% percent male in family units without), and the household head was approximately 3.5 years younger (46.2 years vs 49.7 years). In family units with short-term coresidence, the head was less often non-Hispanic White (67.7% vs. 76.8% in family units without short-term coresidence) and more often Hispanic (9.7% vs. 5.1%). In family units with short-term coresidence, the household head had approximately 0.70 fewer years of

[2] Relationship to head/reference person can change for women from one wave to the next as a function of change in her union status. In family units jointly headed by a married or cohabiting different-sex couple, the male member of the couple occupies the role of family unit head/reference person and the female member occupies the role of spouse/partner of the head/reference person. When unpartnered (i.e., prior to union formation or following union dissolution), the same woman will occupy the role of head/reference person when she is the householder in her own family unit.

educational attainment compared to other family units (12.3 years vs. 13.0 years). Finally, family units with short-term coresidence were less often part of the general population (SRC) sample compared to those without short-term coresidence. Statistically significant weighted group differences ($p<.05$) are denoted by an asterisk.

Together, these results demonstrate that short-term coresidence was infrequent overall but occurred more often in family units headed by immigrants or racial or ethnic minorities and in family units characterized by markers of socioeconomic disadvantage, including female headship, lower educational attainment, and a family history of low-income status.

*Table 1. Prevalence of short-term coresidence between 2001 and 2003 PSID interviews and characteristics of family unit heads in 2003 by short-term coresidence status (*Mean*/SE)*

	No short-term coresidence		Any short-term coresidence		
	Weighted†	*Unwtd.*	*Weighted*		*Unwtd.*
Family unit included any short-term coresident			0.032		0.036
			(0.003)		*(0.002)*
Characteristics of 2003 Household Head					
Male	0.702	0.701	0.595	*	0.631
	(0.007)	*(0.006)*	*(0.040)*		*(0.030)*
Age (in years)	49.712	45.139	46.168	*	44.124
	(0.257)	*(0.193)*	*(1.201)*		*(0.892)*
Head race and ethnicity					
Non-Hispanic White	0.768	0.588	0.677	*	0.474
	(0.010)	*(0.012)*	*(0.038)*		*(0.032)*
Non-Hispanic Black	0.127	0.314	0.165		0.372
	(0.009)	*(0.013)*	*(0.032)*		*(0.032)*
Non-Hispanic American Indian	0.005	0.006	0.006		0.011
	(0.001)	*(0.001)*	*(0.004)*		*(0.008)*
Non-Hispanic Asian/Pacific Islander	0.019	0.016	0.010		0.011
	(0.002)	*(0.002)*	*(0.006)*		*(0.006)*
Non-Hispanic, other race	0.015	0.013	0.020		0.018
	(0.002)	*(0.002)*	*(0.009)*		*(0.008)*
Hispanic ethnicity, any race	0.051	0.044	0.097	*	0.088
	(0.004)	*(0.003)*	*(0.021)*		*(0.018)*
Race/ethnicity unknown	0.014	0.019	0.026		0.026
	(0.002)	*(0.002)*	*(0.011)*		*(0.010)*
Completed years of education	13.046	12.844	12.349	*	12.095
	(0.053)	*(0.043)*	*(0.204)*		*(0.158)*
Sample stratum					
Survey Research Center	0.865	0.661	0.814	*	0.562
	(0.007)	*(0.013)*	*(0.025)*		*(0.033)*
Survey of Economic Opportunity	0.066	0.269	0.083		0.339
	(0.006)	*(0.013)*	*(0.014)*		*(0.032)*
1997 Immigrant Refresher	0.070	0.070	0.103		0.099
	(0.004)	*(0.004)*	*(0.021)*		*(0.019)*
N=7565	7291	7291	274		274

† Weighted using 2003 longitudinal family weight.

* Weighted group differences are statistically significant at p<.05.

Characteristics of short-term coresidents and duration of stay

Table 2 describes the distribution of relationship to head and gender among short-term coresidents compared to family unit members who were present at the time of the 2003 PSID interview.

Relationship to head. Short-term coresidents were much less likely than current family unit members to be the spouse or biological or adoptive child of the family unit head and much more likely to be related as extended kin. While biological children were the largest category of short-term coresidents (23.6%), they were significantly underrepresented in this group compared to current family unit members (49.5%). Grandchildren were the next most frequent short-term coresidents, making up 13.1% of that group compared to 2.8% of current family unit members in 2003. Other vertically extended kin (relatives born in a generation prior to or after the family unit head) including (great-)grandparents, parents, aunts or uncles, great-grandchildren, and nieces or nephews of the family unit head or of the head's spouse/partner collectively comprised 19% of short-term coresidents compared to 1.6% of kin in the 2003 family unit. Laterally extended (same-generation) kin including siblings and cousins of the family unit head or of the head's spouse/partner made up 9.0% of short-term coresidents (vs. 0.9% of coresident kin present in 2003).

Cohabiting partners of the family unit head made up an additional 7.6% of short-term coresidents, compared to 3.5% of current family unit members. Most of these short-term cohabiting partners were classified as "first-year" cohabitors, meaning that their between-wave spell in the family unit lasted less than 12 months. In contrast, only 2% of short-term coresidents were spouse of the family unit head compared to 36.5% of current family unit members in 2003. In sum, cohabiting partners were overrepresented and spouses were dramatically underrepresented among short-term residents compared to family unit members who resided in the family unit at the 2003 interview.

Gender. Short-term coresidents were roughly balanced by gender: 48.3% of short-term coresidents were male and 51.1% were female. In contrast, 31.5% of family unit members other than the family unit head were male (weighted estimates). In part, this discrepancy reflects an artifact of the PSID family unit design: with few exceptions, male householders occupy the status of family unit head in family units led by married or cohabiting couples. Thus, a focus on current family unit members that is exclusive of family unit heads and inclusive of spouses/cohabiting partners will include more women than men. In practical terms, short-term coresidents' more balanced gender distribution reflects their more varied relationships to the family unit head compared to current family unit members, as described above.

Table 2. Reported characteristics of short-term coresidents in PSID family units (2001-03) and members of PSID family units in 2003 (excluding family unit head, Mean/*SE)*

	Short-term Coresidents		2003 Family Unit Members (excluding head)		
	Weighted†	*Unwtd.*	*Weighted*		*Unwtd.*
Relationship to head					
Spouse (wife)	0.020	0.011	0.365	*	0.293
	(0.011)	*(0.005)*	*(0.005)*		*(0.005)*
Long-term cohabiting partner (>1 year)	0.023	0.018	0.025		0.028
	(0.010)	*(0.007)*	*(0.002)*		*(0.002)*
First-year cohabiting partner	0.053	0.050	0.010	*	0.014
	(0.014)	*(0.012)*	*(0.001)*		*(0.001)*
Biological/adoptive child	0.236	0.171	0.495	*	0.513
	(0.031)	*(0.019)*	*(0.005)*		*(0.005)*
Stepchild	0.049	0.050	0.033		0.050
	(0.022)	*(0.015)*	*(0.002)*		*(0.003)*
Long-term partner's child	0.010	0.011	0.008		0.013
	(0.005)	*(0.005)*	*(0.001)*		*(0.001)*
First-year partner's child	0.002	0.003	0.002		0.004
	(0.002)	*(0.003)*	*(0.000)*		*(0.001)*
Child-in-law	0.043	0.032	0.002	*	0.002
	(0.013)	*(0.008)*	*(0.000)*		*(0.000)*
Foster child	0.013	0.021	0.001		0.002
	(0.010)	*(0.014)*	*(0.000)*		*(0.000)*
Sibling	0.039	0.068	0.006	*	0.008
	(0.010)	*(0.014)*	*(0.001)*		*(0.001)*
Sibling-in-law	0.027	0.034	0.002	*	0.002
	(0.009)	*(0.010)*	*(0.001)*		*(0.000)*
Partner's sibling	0.005	0.005	0.000		0.000
	(0.004)	*(0.004)*	*(0.000)*		*(0.000)*
Parent	0.067	0.068	0.006	*	0.008
	(0.017)	*(0.015)*	*(0.001)*		*(0.001)*
Parent-in-law	0.051	0.055	0.003	*	0.003
	(0.014)	*(0.013)*	*(0.001)*		*(0.001)*
Partner's parent	0.000	0.000	0.000		0.000
	(0.000)	*(0.000)*	*(0.000)*		*(0.000)*
Grandchild	0.130	0.118	0.028	*	0.038
	(0.029)	*(0.022)*	*(0.002)*		*(0.002)*
Great-grandchild	0.000	0.000	0.001		0.002
	(0.000)	*(0.000)*	*(0.001)*		*(0.000)*
Grandparent	0.000	0.000	0.000	*	0.001
	(0.000)	*(0.000)*	*(0.000)*		*(0.000)*

Spouse's grandparent	0.003	0.003	0.000		0.000
	(0.003)	*(0.003)*	*(0.000)*		*(0.000)*
Great-grandparent	0.000	0.003	0.000		0.000
	(0.000)	*(0.003)*	*(0.000)*		*(0.000)*
Niece/nephew	0.055	0.066	0.003	*	0.006
	(0.021)	*(0.016)*	*(0.001)*		*(0.001)*
Spouse's niece/nephew	0.012	0.021	0.002		0.002
	(0.006)	*(0.009)*	*(0.001)*		*(0.000)*
Aunt/uncle	0.004	0.011	0.001		0.001
	(0.002)	*(0.005)*	*(0.000)*		*(0.000)*
Spouse's aunt/uncle	0.000	0.000	0.000		0.000
	(0.000)	*(0.000)*	*(0.000)*		*(0.000)*
Cousin	0.013	0.018	0.001	*	0.002
	(0.006)	*(0.007)*	*(0.000)*		*(0.000)*
Spouse's cousin	0.006	0.008	0.000		0.000
	(0.004)	*(0.005)*	*(0.000)*		*(0.000)*
Husband of head (Head is married woman)	0.011	0.013	0.001		0.001
	(0.007)	*(0.006)*	*(0.000)*		*(0.000)*
Other relative	0.009	0.016	0.000		0.001
	(0.007)	*(0.007)*	*(0.000)*		*(0.000)*
Spouse's other relative	0.003	0.005	0.000		0.000
	(0.003)	*(0.004)*	*(0.000)*		*(0.000)*
Partner's other relative	0.003	0.003	0.001		0.001
	(0.003)	*(0.003)*	*(0.000)*		*(0.001)*
Nonrelative	0.111	0.118	0.005	*	0.005
	(0.024)	*(0.020)*	*(0.001)*		*(0.001)*
Gender					
Female	0.511	0.508	0.685	*	0.654
	(0.032)	*(0.027)*	*(0.005)*		*(0.004)*
Male	0.483	0.487	0.315	*	0.346
	(0.033)	*(0.027)*	*(0.005)*		*(0.004)*
Not reported	0.006	0.005	0.000		0.000
	(0.004)	*(0.004)*	*(0.000)*		*(0.000)*
N	380	380	13,096		13,096

† Weighted using 2003 longitudinal family weight.

* Weighted group differences are statistically significant at p<.05.

Duration of coresidence. Table 3 summarizes duration of short-term coresidence overall and by relationship to head in the 2003 family unit. Short-term coresidents remained in the reporting family unit for 9.005 months on average (SE=0.433 months, weighted estimate), or three-quarters of a calendar year. Duration of stay varied by relationship to the 2003 family unit head, with non-kin including foster children (5.535 months) and cousins (6.130 months) remaining in the family unit for the fewest months on average. Spouses (10.759 months), cohabiting partners (11.602 months), and partners' children (12.298 months) had some of the longest spells of coresidence, as did older relatives of the family unit head including parents 10.977 months) and aunts or uncles (11.460 months). Children of the family unit head (8.598 months) had durations of stay slightly below the overall mean. Together, these patterns indicate that romantic attachment, family relatedness, and belonging to an older generation compared to the family unit head are characteristics associated with longer spells of coresidence and more distal family relatedness or the absence of relatedness is associated with shorter spells.

*Table 3. Average duration of short-term coresidence in months by relationship to 2003 PSID family unit head (*Mean*/SE)*

	Duration in months	
	Weighted†	*Unwtd.*
Overall	9.005	8.892
	(0.433)	*(0.329)*
Relationship to head*		
Spouse (wife)	10.759	13.333
	(0.983)	*(2.136)*
Cohabiting partner (first-year or long-term)	11.602	10.962
	(0.948)	*(0.938)*
Biological/adoptive child	8.598	8.154
	(0.938)	*(0.660)*
Stepchild	11.511	10.368
	(1.074)	*(1.131)*
Cohabiting partner's child	12.298	12.400
	(1.941)	*(1.607)*
Child-in-law	8.508	9.417
	(0.747)	*(0.673)*
Foster child	5.535	5.625
	(0.246)	*(0.138)*
Sibling	7.829	7.269
	(1.303)	*(0.893)*
Sibling-in-law (sibling of spouse or partner)	7.397	7.333
	(1.518)	*(1.180)*
Parent	10.977	9.654
	(1.548)	*(0.859)*
Parent-in-law	7.647	8.190
	(1.297)	*(1.453)*
Grandchild	9.264	9.556
	(0.931)	*(0.746)*
Grandparent (to head or spouse)	8.978	11.500
	(1.193)	*(2.480)*
Niece/nephew (to head or spouse)	10.020	9.242
	(1.697)	*(1.441)*
Aunt/uncle (to head or spouse)	11.460	11.000
	(1.327)	*(1.908)*
Cousin (to head or spouse)	6.130	7.100
	(0.789)	*(0.945)*
Other relative (to head or spouse/partner)	9.897	9.778
	(3.241)	*(1.974)*
Nonrelative	6.409	7.644
	(0.831)	*(0.618)*
N	380	380

† Weighted using 2003 longitudinal family weight.
*Categories with small frequencies are collapsed as indicated.

Impact of short-term coresidence on estimates of cohabitation prevalence and duration

We estimate the average duration of cohabiting unions between the two survey waves, first taking into account only those unions that were observed in either wave, including those that were intact in 2001 but dissolved before 2003 (corresponding to line A in Figure 1 above), those that were intact in both waves, including cohabiting unions that had transitioned to marriage (line B), and those that began between waves and were still intact in 2003 (line C). We then re-estimate the prevalence and duration of cohabiting unions taking into account 2003 family unit heads' cohabiting unions that began and ended between the 2001 and 2003 interviews (line D).

Table 4 summarizes unweighted and weighted estimates of cohabitation prevalence and duration. We focus here on weighted values. The universe includes PSID sample members who were householders in the role of family unit head or spouse/partner at the 2001 and 2003 interview waves (N=7,063).

Table 4. Prevalence and duration of cohabiting unions between 2001 and 2003 (Mean/SE) among PSID householders (family unit head or spouse/partner who is PSID sample member)

	Weighted†	*Unwtd.*
Union status in 2003		
Currently in cohabiting union	0.052	0.058
	(0.003)	*(0.003)*
Duration of current cohabiting union in months, 2001-2003 (N=407)	19.180	18.854
	(0.431)	*(0.390)*
Dynamic measures of cohabitation		
Not accounting for short-term coresidence		
In cohabiting union with same partner, 2001 and 2003	0.031	0.033
	(0.003)	*(0.002)*
Married in 2003 to 2001 cohabiting partner	0.014	0.016
	(0.002)	*(0.002)*
Cohabiting with or married to 2001 partner in 2003	0.044	0.050
	(0.003)	*(0.003)*
In cohabiting union in 2001, ended before 2003	0.024	0.030
	(0.002)	*(0.002)*
In a cohabiting union in 2003, began after 2001	0.020	0.023
	(0.002)	*(0.002)*
Cohabiting in 2001 or 2003, including marriage to 2001 partner	0.075	0.086
	(0.004)	*(0.004)*
Accounting for short-term coresidence		
In short-term cohabiting union	0.003	0.003
	(0.001)	*(0.001)*
In a cohabiting union any time, 2001-2003	0.078	0.089
	(0.004)	*(0.004)*
Months in cohabiting union (including transitions to marriage), 2001-2003		
Excluding short-term coresidence		
Cohabited in 2001 or 2003 (N=606)	19.235	18.831
	(0.349)	*(0.319)*
Overall	1.445	1.616
	(0.080)	*(0.077)*
Including short-term coresidence		
Duration of cohabiting unions in short-term coresidence (N=24)	11.570	11.125
	(0.890)	*(1.007)*
Ever cohabited between 2001 and 2003 (N=628)	19.027	18.596
	(0.345)	*(0.314)*
Overall	1.478	1.653
	(0.080)	*(0.077)*
N	7,063	7,063

† Weighted using 2003 longitudinal person weight.

In 2003, 5.2% of householders were in a cohabiting union with an average duration of 19.180 months during the between-wave interval. Considering cohabitation status dynamically between waves, 3.1% of householders were cohabiting with the same person in 2001 and 2003, and 1.4% of people were married to the person they cohabited with in 2001. In total, 4.4% of householders in 2003 were still cohabiting with or married to their cohabiting partner from 2001 (summation discrepancy due to rounding error]. 2.4% of householders were in a cohabiting union in 2001 that had dissolved by 2003, and 2% of householders began a cohabiting union between 2001 that remained intact in 2003. (Note that the last two categories are not mutually exclusive.) In total, 7.5% of householders were in a cohabiting union in 2001 or 2003.

The Short-Term Coresidents module identifies an additional 0.3% of family unit householders in 2003 who had experienced a cohabiting union that began and ended since the prior interview wave. When these short-term relationships are taken into account, 7.8% of householders were in a cohabiting union sometime between 2001 and 2003. Compared to prevalence estimates based only on unions in progress at interview, accounting for between-wave unions increases the prevalence of cohabitation over the two-year period by 4.0% (0.3 percentage points).

Accounting for these short-term cohabiting unions slightly reduces the average duration of cohabiting unions among those ever in a union during the two-year period. When only unions in progress in 2001 or 2003 are considered (including those that transitioned to marriage), the average cohabiting union endured for 19.235 months over the period between interviews. Short-term cohabiting unions persisted for an average of 11.570 months. When these shorter unions are included in the period estimate, the average cohabiting union endured for 19.027 months in the period between 2001 and 2003, a difference of -0.208 months or -1.1%.

When all householders present at the 2001 and 2003 interviews are considered (i.e., when the sample is not limited to those who ever cohabited in the two-year period), the unconditional mean for cohabitation duration *increases* after taking short-term unions into account. This reflects that most householders did not cohabit. Any increase in the observed prevalence of a relatively infrequent activity contributes to an increase in the unconditional average observed duration. Overall, householders cohabited for an average of 1.445 months when only their unions in progress in 2001 or 2003 are considered. Including their short-term cohabiting unions, average observed duration increases to 1.478 months (a difference of 0.033 months, or 2.3%).

4. Conclusion

This report describes the frequency and characteristics of short-term coresidence in PSID family units in order to provide an empirically-grounded estimate of the turnover in living arrangements that families experience in the interval between survey waves. Spells of between-wave coresidence are reported infrequently in PSID family units. Overall, 3.2% of family units reported that another person moved into and back out of the family unit between the 2001 and 2003 Core PSID interviews. At least with regard to cohabitation with a romantic partner, the impact of excluding short-term coresidence on estimates of the prevalence and duration of a

given living arrangement is modest. Users should be aware, however, that short-term coresidence is experienced unevenly in the population that PSID represents, and occurs more often in family units where the head/reference person is Hispanic, has fewer years of education, or is an unpartnered woman compared to family units where the head/reference person is non-Hispanic white, more educated, or male. Finally, short-term coresidents themselves are more likely than individuals present at interview to be extended kin, recent cohabiting partners, or nonrelatives of the family unit head/reference person, highlighting the distinctive character of short-term coresidence as a transient aspect of family organization over time.

As noted, this technical report describes recent short-term coresidence PSID family units reported in 2003. Since then, family composition and/or the pace of change in family composition may have changed. Users wishing to obtain more contemporary estimates may use move-in and move-out dates reported at each wave for family unit members who have entered or exited the family unit respectively since last interview. This information may be used to produce indirect estimates of unobserved spells of short-term coresidence in the between-wave interval.

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