

Social Factors Increasing the Likelihood of Persons Entering into a Cohabiting Relationship

- 1) Low levels of educational attainment: **59 percent** of persons without a high school degree were involved in cohabitation in 2000 versus only **37 percent** of persons with a college degree.
- 2) Persons with working mothers while they are teenagers have an **11 percent** higher rate of cohabitation.
- 3) Persons who grow up in households that are receiving welfare assistance [now called TANF] are **43 percent** more likely to cohabit than others.
- 4) Persons born outside of marriage are **75 percent** more likely to cohabit than others.
- 5) Persons whose parents have divorced or separated have a **54 percent** greater likelihood of cohabitation.
- 6) Persons whose religious affiliation is other than Protestant fundamentalist or Roman Catholic are more likely to cohabit. [Protestant fundamentalists are **43 percent less likely** to cohabit and Roman Catholics are **16 percent less likely** to cohabit.]