CHAPTER 4

Singlehood, Hanging Out, Hooking Up, and Cohabitation

Learning Objectives

- Explain the types of singles and the reasons individuals give for delaying marriage.
- Identify the changes in dating in the last 60 years.
- Understand the goals and outcomes of “hooking up.”

- Describe the types of cohabitant relationships and the relationship consequences.
- Review the positives and negatives of living apart together.
- Discuss the future of singlehood.
Chapter 4: Singlehood, Hanging Out, Hooking Up, and Cohabitation

Introduction

• Food for thought…
  • Persons who live together and then marry are less likely to get divorced than those who don’t live together before marriage. True or False?
Chapter 4: Singlehood, Hanging Out, Hooking Up, and Cohabitation

Introduction

• FALSE
  • Researchers refer to the cohabitation effect as the tendency for couples who cohabit to end up in less happy and shorter-lived marriages (more likely to divorce).
  • Cohabitants are more likely not only to divorce but to report more disagreements, more violence, lower levels of happiness, and lower levels of ability to negotiate conflict.
Singlehood

• **Singlehood** is most often associated with young unmarried individuals.

• Individuals Are Delaying Marriage Longer:
  • The proportion of households consisting of one person living alone increased from 30.1% to 31.1% in two years
  • This is due, in part, to the fact that Americans are staying single longer.

• Reasons for Delaying Marriage:
  • Financial stability, inability to pay for a wedding, doubts about potential spouse, quality of relationship, fear of divorce, infidelity, in-laws, etc.
Singlehood

Categories of Singlehood

• Never-Married Singles
  • It is rare for people to remain unmarried their entire life. Why?
  • Let's Watch

• Divorced Singles
  • The divorced are also regarded as single.
  • It is difficult for many divorced individuals to transition back to singlehood.

• Widowed Singles
  • These individuals are forced into singlehood. How might this be difficult?
### Singlehood

**Benefits of Singlehood and Limitations of Marriage**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefits of Singlehood</th>
<th>Limitations of Marriage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freedom to do as one wishes</td>
<td>Restricted by spouse or children</td>
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<tr>
<td>Variety of lovers</td>
<td>One sexual partner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spontaneous lifestyle</td>
<td>Routine, predictable lifestyle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Close friends of both sexes</td>
<td>Pressure to avoid close other-sex friendships</td>
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<tr>
<td>Responsible for one person only</td>
<td>Responsible for spouse and children</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spend money as one wishes</td>
<td>Expenditures influenced by needs of spouse and children</td>
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<tr>
<td>Freedom to move as career dictates</td>
<td>Restrictions on career mobility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avoid being controlled by spouse</td>
<td>Potential to be controlled by spouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avoid emotional and financial stress of divorce</td>
<td>Possibility of divorce</td>
</tr>
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Singlehood
Personal Choices

• Personal Choices
  • Is Singlehood for you?
    • Consider the pros and cons of these concepts when contemplating your position on being single:
      • Alone time
      • Money
      • Social Identity
      • Children
Functions and Changes in Dating
Functions of Involvement with a Partner

1. Confirmation of a social self: partner becomes a mirror and provides feedback through speech/gesture we view ourselves in a positive way.
2. Recreation: having fun together
3. Companionship / Intimacy / Sex
4. Anticipatory socialization: learning what each person likes, negotiating, communication, learning to be in a long term relationship
5. Status achievement: being involved has higher status than being single
6. Mate selection: lead to marriage, finding "the one"
Functions, History, and Changes in “Dating”

Changes in “Dating” in the Past 60 Years

• Increase in the age at marriage
• Dating pool includes an increasing number of individuals in their 30s who have been married before
• Cohabitation has become more normative
• Gender role relationships have become more egalitarian
• Both sexes are more aware and cautious of becoming HIV-infected
Hanging Out and Hooking Up

• **Hanging out**
  - Refers to going out in groups where the agenda is to meet others and have fun

• **Hooking up**
  - A sexual encounter that occurs between individuals who have no relationship commitment.
  - The nature of the encounter may be making out, oral sex, and/or sexual intercourse.
Hooking Up

• Unspoken rules:
  • Hooking up is not dating.
  • Hooking up is not a romantic relationship.
  • Hooking up is physical.
  • Hooking up is secret.
  • One who hooks up is not to expect subsequent phone calls from their hookup partner.
  • Condom/ protection should always occur.
  • Who has more regret men or women after a hook up?
• Let's Watch
• Shameless/fun
• Reflects sexual freedom
Cohabitation

• Also known as *living together*

• Involves two adults, unrelated by blood or by law, involved in an emotional and sexual relationship, who sleep at the same residence at least four nights a week for three months.

• Most (36%) of cohabitants are between the ages of 25 and 34. Only 18% are under the age of 25.

• Most cohabitants are other sex (1% same sex) and white (87%).
Cohabitation

• Reasons for the increase in **cohabitation**:
  • Career or educational commitments
  • Increased tolerance of society, parents, and peers
  • Improved birth control technology
  • Desire for a stable emotional and sexual relationship without legal ties
  • Avoiding loneliness
  • Greater disregard for convention
Cohabitation
Nine Types of Cohabitation Relationships

1. **Here and Now** - The partners are focused on the here and now, not the future of the relationship.

2. **Testers** - The couple wants to assess whether they have a future together.

3. **Engaged** - These couples are in love and are planning to marry.
Cohabitation
Nine Types of Cohabitation Relationships

4. **Money Savers** - The couples live together out of economic convenience.

5. **Pension Partners** - Getting married would mean giving up their pension benefits from the previous marriage.

6. **Alimony Maintenance** - The divorced partner is collecting alimony, which he or she would forfeit should he or she remarry.
Cohabitation
Nine Types of Cohabitation Relationships

7. **Security blanket cohabiters** - Drawn to each other out of a need for security rather than mutual attraction.

8. **Rebellious cohabiters** - The cohabitation is more about rebelling from parents than being drawn to each other.

9. **Marriage never (cohabitants forever)** - Living together provides companionship and sex without the responsibilities of marriage. Some may define this as a “domestic partnership.”
Cohabitation

- Marriage Never (Cohabitants Forever)
  - Motives for cohabitating as a permanent lifestyle:
    1. Marriage free: marriage not necessary to their happiness
    2. Risk aversion: want to avoid disaster marriage that parents/friends experienced
    3. Marriage boycott: support gays that are denied same sex marriage
    4. Sexism dissent: reject patriarchal history of marriage=controlling women
    5. American dreamer: pay off debt & establish career
    6. Economic disincentives: avoid partner’s debt after marriage
Cohabitation
Consequences of Cohabitation

Advantages
• Sense of well-being
• Delayed marriage
• Knowledge about self and partner
• Safety

Disadvantages
• More problems than spouses
• Feeling used or tricked
• Parental problems
• Economic disadvantages
• Effects on children
Cohabitation
Having Children While Cohabitating

• Most U.S. undergraduates believe they should be married (not just cohabitating) before beginning a family.
• 20% of first-time premarital cohabitants experience a pregnancy.
Cohabitation
Legal Aspect of Living Together

• Though not enforced, cohabitation is against the law in some states.

• Some of the legal issues concerning cohabiting partners include:
  • Common-law marriage: only 14 states recognize
  • Palimony: $ paid to your “pal” when relationship ends
  • Child support: heterosexual parents are responsible for child support
  • Child inheritance: biological children of unmarried cohabitants can inherit from parents.
  • Biological parent (gay couple) has more power and will be given custody
Cohabitation
Legal Aspect of Living Together

• In North Carolina, cohabitation is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed $500, imprisonment for not more than six months, or both.

• Common-law marriage dates to a time when couples who wanted to be married did not have easy or convenient access to legal authorities.
Living Apart Together (LAT)

• Involves a committed couple who does not live in the same home.

• Criteria to be defined as a LAT couple:
  • They must define themselves as a committed couple.
  • Others must define the partners as a couple.
  • They must live in separate domiciles.
Living Apart Together
Advantages and Disadvantages

Advantages:

1. Space and privacy
2. Career or work space
3. Variable sleep needs
4. Allergies
5. Variable social needs
6. Blended family needs
7. Keeping the relationship exciting
8. Self-expression and comfort
9. Cleanliness or orderliness
10. Elder care
11. Maintaining one’s lifetime residence
12. Leaving inheritance to children

Disadvantages:

1. Stigma or disapproval
2. Cost
3. Inconvenience
4. Lack of shared history
5. No legal protection
Living Apart Together

• Food for thought…
  • In a study of 68 adults (93% married), 7 percent reported a preference for an LAT arrangement with their spouse and 46 percent said that living apart from your spouse enhances your relationship.

• Discussion: What would be some of the difficulties with a relationship of this sort?

• Let's Watch

Diversity in Other Countries

Another version of living apart together is the “walking marriage.” High in the Tibetan Himalayas, “walking marriages” occur in the Mosuo culture (Kingdom of Women) in China, which does not have traditional marriage (no “husbands” or “wives”). Rather, in this matrilineal society, women live with other women (and raise the children) and men “walk by at night and visit and leave the next morning” when there is an affectionate relationship. The women and men can have as many “walking marriages” as they want with the men never living with the woman, only visiting her (Mosuo 2010).
The Future of Singlehood, Long-Term Relationships, and Cohabitation

• Singlehood will lose some of its stigma and more young adults will chose this option.

• Individuals will continue to delay marriage and instead focus on completing their education, becoming established in their careers, and enjoying hanging out and hooking up.

• Cohabitation will increase not just in the percent of those living together before marriage but also in the prevalence of serial cohabitation.
Quick Quiz

1. Functions of being involved with a partner include intimacy and:
   a. status achievement
   b. mate selection
   c. companionship
   d. all of the above
Quick Quiz

2. In traditional Chinese culture, romantic feelings were viewed as:
   a. very important
   b. unnecessary
   c. scandalous
   d. vital to marital happiness
Quick Quiz

3. Partners who are emotionally and sexually involved and want to see whether cohabitation and marriage are the right decision are referred to as:
   a. here and now
   b. testers
   c. rebellious cohabitators
   d. commitment-phobic
Quick Quiz

4. Which one of the following is not a legal concern for cohabitators?
   a. Common-law marriage
   b. Palimony
   c. Alimony
   d. Child inheritance
5. A committed couple who does not live in the same home is considered to be:
   a. Living Apart Together (LAT)
   b. Non-Cohabitating Couple (NCC)
   c. Separated Married Couple (SMC)
   d. Loving Long Distance (LLD)