

Bowling Green State University
ScholarWorks@BGSU

National Center for Family and Marriage
Research Family Profiles

Sociology

2010

FP-10-02 Cohabitation in the U.S., 2006-2008

K. Krivickas

Krista K. Payne

Bowling Green State University, kristaw@bgsu.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/ncfmr_family_profiles



Part of the [Family, Life Course, and Society Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Krivickas, K. and Payne, Krista K., "FP-10-02 Cohabitation in the U.S., 2006-2008" (2010). *National Center for Family and Marriage Research Family Profiles*. 138.

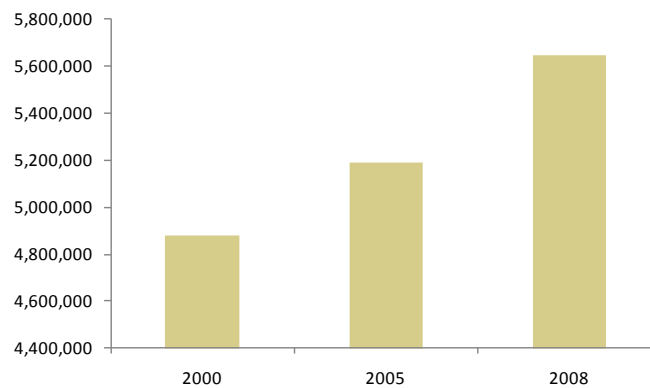
https://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/ncfmr_family_profiles/138

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by the Sociology at ScholarWorks@BGSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in National Center for Family and Marriage Research Family Profiles by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@BGSU.

Change in Number of Opposite-Sex Unmarried-Partner Households, 2000-2008

- The number of opposite-sex unmarried-partner households (OSUPH) increased 15.7% from 2000 to 2008. The number of married couple households increased only modestly during the same time period (2.2%).
 - » In 2000, the number of OSUPHs was nearly 4.9 million households.
 - » By 2008, the number of OSUPHs increased to over 5.6 million households.
 - » The growth is accelerating over the current period and could reach up to 6 million households by 2010.
- Among **all** couple households in 2008, nearly 9% were OSUPHs.

Figure 1: Number of Opposite-Sex Unmarried-Partner Households, 2000-2008



Source: Census Bureau, 2000 Decennial Census, 2005 American Community Survey, and 2008 American Community Survey.

Characteristics of OSUPHs, 2006-2008 Three-Year Estimates

- OSUPHs are as likely to contain children as married couple households.
 - » About 43% of both OSUPHs and married couple households include children under age 18.
- OSUPHs have lower incomes, on average, than married couple households.
 - » The median household income is \$51,200 for OSUPHs, whereas the median household income for married couple households is \$74,732.
 - » Among OSUPHs, 15% receive food stamps compared to only 4% of married couple households.
- Individuals living in OSUPHs are less likely to own their homes than individuals living in married couple households.
 - » Only 46% of OSUPHs own their own homes compared to 83% of married couple households.

Family Profiles examine topics related to NCFMR's core research themes. Data are presented at both the national and state levels using new data sources. Written for both researchers and broad communities, these profiles summarize the latest statistics on U.S. families.

States with the Highest and Lowest Percentage of OSUPHs, 2006-2008 Three-Year Estimates

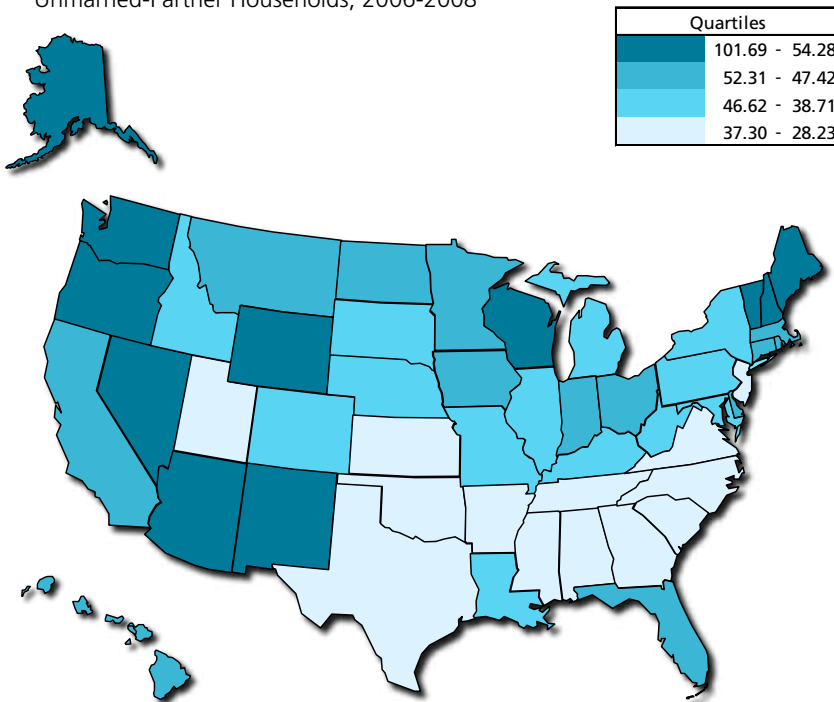
- Five percent of all American households are OSUPHs.
- Maine and Alaska have the highest proportion of OSUPHs, with 7.5% of all households (Table 1).
- Among all fifty states, Alabama has the smallest proportion of OSUPHs, with only 3.1% of all households (Table 1).

Table 1: Top and Bottom Five Ranking States: Proportion of Opposite-Sex Unmarried-Partner Households, 2006-2008

Ranking	State	Percentage	Margin of Error
1	Maine	7.5	+/- 0.36
1	Alaska	7.5	+/- 0.47
3	Vermont	7.2	+/- 0.42
4	New Hampshire	6.9	+/- 0.34
5	Nevada	6.5	+/- 0.26
U.S.		4.8	+/- 0.10
47	Virginia	4.0	+/- 0.12
48	Wash, DC	3.8	+/- 0.34
49	Arkansas	3.8	+/- 0.16
50	Utah	3.4	+/- 0.19
51	Alabama	3.1	+/- 0.13

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006-2008 Three-Year Estimates

Figure 2: Geographic Variation in the Proportion of Opposite-Sex Unmarried-Partner Households, 2006-2008



Geographic Variation in OSUPHs, 2006-2008 Three-Year Estimates

- The largest proportions of OSUPHs are found in the Western region of the U.S. (Alaska, Nevada, Wyoming, Oregon, New Mexico, Washington, and Arizona) (Figure 2).
- States with the lowest proportions of OSUPHs are predominantly located in the Southern region of the U.S. (North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Mississippi, Texas, South Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, Wash, DC, Arkansas, and Alabama) (Figure 2).
- For a ranking table with all states (including Washington, DC) organized by quartiles, [click here](#).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006-2008 Three-Year Estimates

Return to page 2

Table 2: Percentage of U.S. Households that are Opposite-Sex Unmarried-Partner Households, 2006-2008

Ranking	State	Percentage	Margin of Error
1	Maine	7.5	+/- 0.36
1	Alaska	7.5	+/- 0.47
3	Vermont	7.2	+/- 0.42
4	New Hampshire	6.9	+/- 0.34
5	Nevada	6.5	+/- 0.26
6	Wyoming	6.2	+/- 0.50
6	Oregon	6.2	+/- 0.19
8	New Mexico	6.0	+/- 0.29
9	Washington	5.9	+/- 0.15
10	Wisconsin	5.7	+/- 0.14
10	Arizona	5.7	+/- 0.18
12	Minnesota	5.4	+/- 0.14
12	Iowa	5.4	+/- 0.19
12	Montana	5.4	+/- 0.41
15	Indiana	5.3	+/- 0.13
15	California	5.3	+/- 0.06
15	Hawaii	5.3	+/- 0.34
15	Delaware	5.3	+/- 0.39
19	Florida	5.2	+/- 0.10
19	Rhode Island	5.2	+/- 0.36
21	Massachusetts	5.0	+/- 0.14
21	Ohio	5.0	+/- 0.09
21	North Dakota	5.0	+/- 0.38
21	Connecticut	5.0	+/- 0.20
25	Idaho	4.9	+/- 0.29
25	Pennsylvania	4.9	+/- 0.09
25	South Dakota	4.9	+/- 0.36
25	Maryland	4.9	+/- 0.15
25	Missouri	4.9	+/- 0.14
	U.S.	4.8	+/- 0.10
30	Colorado	4.8	+/- 0.15
30	New York	4.8	+/- 0.08
30	Nebraska	4.8	+/- 0.23
33	Michigan	4.7	+/- 0.10
33	Kentucky	4.7	+/- 0.19
35	Louisiana	4.6	+/- 0.18
35	Illinois	4.6	+/- 0.10
35	West Virginia	4.6	+/- 0.24
38	Kansas	4.4	+/- 0.17
39	North Carolina	4.3	+/- 0.11
39	Oklahoma	4.3	+/- 0.16
39	Tennessee	4.3	+/- 0.13
42	New Jersey	4.2	+/- 0.11
42	Mississippi	4.2	+/- 0.21
44	Texas	4.1	+/- 0.08
44	South Carolina	4.1	+/- 0.16
44	Georgia	4.1	+/- 0.12
47	Virginia	4.0	+/- 0.12
48	Wash, DC	3.8	+/- 0.34
48	Arkansas	3.8	+/- 0.16
50	Utah	3.4	+/- 0.19
51	Alabama	3.1	+/- 0.13

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006-2008 Three-Year Estimates

Suggested Citation:
Krivickas, K., & Payne K. K. (2010). Cohabitation in the U.S., 2006-2008 (FP-10-02). National Center for Family & Marriage Research. Retrieved from http://ncfmr.bgsu.edu/pdf/family_profiles/84526.pdf

This project was supported with a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, grant number 5 UOI AEO00001-03. The opinions and conclusions expressed herein are solely those of the author(s) and should not be construed as representing the opinions or policy of any agency of the Federal government.