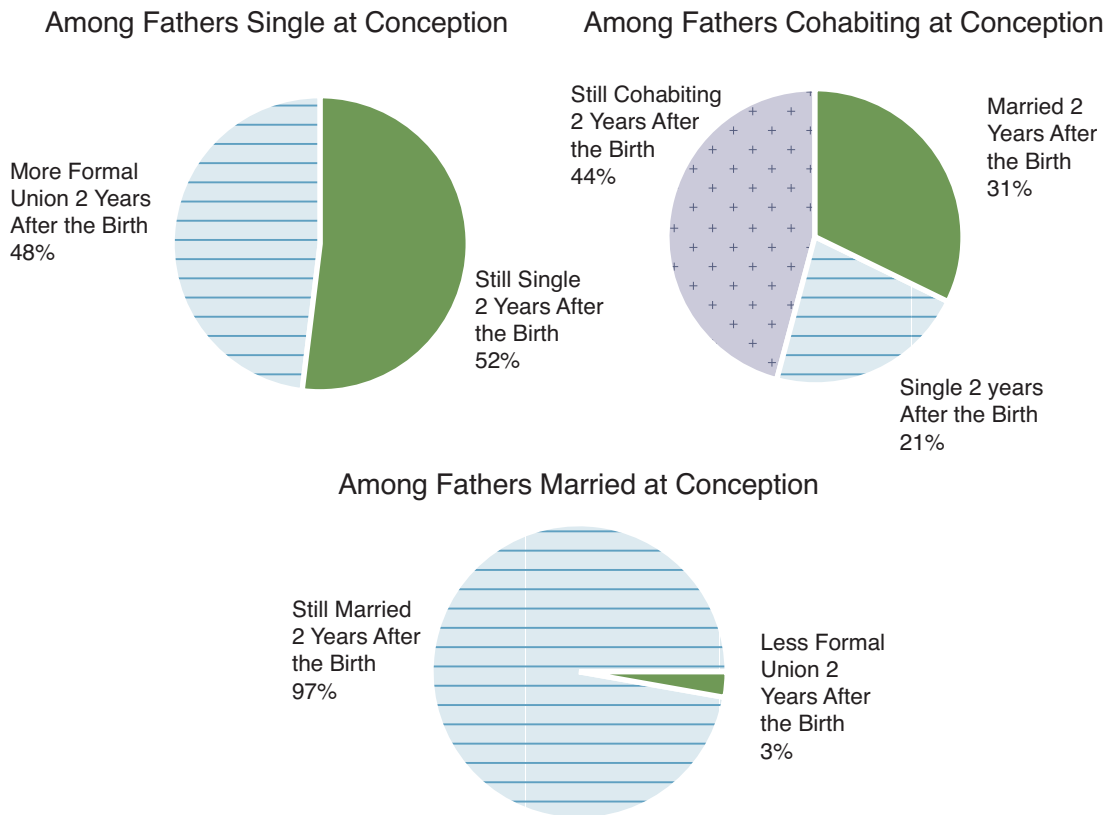


G-4. Fathers Who Report an Unplanned Pregnancy and Birth— Proportion whose Relationships Change over Time⁴

- ▲ Just as Chart G-3 tracks changes in mothers' relationships over time, this chart tracks fathers' relationship changes over time, and provides a more complete picture of whether fathers who became a parent following an unplanned pregnancy moved into more formal unions or not. Readers should note that 25% of fathers were missing from this survey, and this likely includes a disproportionate share of fathers who were less connected with the child's mother.
- ▲ Almost half (48%) of men who were single at conception and report an unplanned pregnancy and birth moved into a more formal union by the child's second birthday. It is also the case that 31% of men who were cohabiting at conception reported getting married within two years of the baby's birth, while 21% reported breaking up.

Relationship Changes Between Conception and Two Years after the Birth Among Men Who Report an Unplanned Pregnancy and Birth



4. Child Trends Inc., analysis of data from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Survey—Birth Cohort, 2008.

- ▲ The table below shows these results along with more detailed findings on relationship transitions. In addition to reflecting the overall period between conception and two years after the child’s birth, the findings also depict the initial period between conception and birth, as well as comparisons between births following a planned versus an unplanned pregnancy.
- ▲ The findings indicate that there are few significant differences in the relationship stability of couples based on fathers’ report of pregnancy intention. One notable exception is the results for men in cohabiting relationships—a breakup was nearly twice as likely when the birth followed an unplanned pregnancy compared to a planned pregnancy.

Relationship Changes Following and Unplanned Pregnancy and Birth, by Fathers’ Pregnancy Intention – Without Controlling for Background Characteristics						
	Relationship Status at Conception					
	Single at Conception		Cohabiting at Conception		Married at Conception	
	Unplanned	Planned	Unplanned	Planned	Unplanned	Planned
Relationship Change Between Conception and Birth						
Less Formal Union at Birth	—	—	13%*	5%*	2%	0%
Same Relationship at Birth	42%	48%	68%	65%	98%	100%
More Formal Union at Birth	58%	52%	18%*	30%*	—	—
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Relationship Change Between Conception and 2 Years After Birth						
Less Formal Union 2 Years after Birth	—	—	21%*	11%*	3%*	1%*
Same Relationship 2 Years after Birth	52%	51%	48%	52%	97%*	99%*
More Formal Union 2 Years after Birth	48%	49%	31%	37%	—	—
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

* Difference between planned and unplanned is statistically significant p <0.05

- ▲ In addition, the table below presents estimates based on predicted probabilities from multivariate models that control for a number of child, father, and family characteristics. These estimates suggest how much of the difference between outcomes following planned versus unplanned pregnancies would remain even among fathers who are otherwise quite similar. The characteristics controlled for include child’s age at baseline, child’s race/ethnicity, child’s birth order, child’s gender, father’s age at birth, father’s work status, father’s education, poverty status, language spoken in the home, parent’s relationship status at birth, and mother’s pregnancy intention.
- ▲ These results suggest that while relationship stability does differ between fathers experiencing a planned versus an unplanned birth, once other family characteristics and mother’s pregnancy intentions are controlled for, there is little additional influence of fathers’ intentions. The one notable exception is that fathers experiencing a birth following an unplanned pregnancy are less likely to transition from cohabitation to marriage than fathers experiencing a birth following a planned pregnancy.

Relationship Changes Following and Unplanned Pregnancy and Birth, by Fathers’ Pregnancy Intention—Controlling for Background Characteristics						
	Relationship Status at Conception					
	Single at Conception		Cohabiting at Conception		Married at Conception	
	Unplanned	Planned	Unplanned	Planned	Unplanned	Planned
Relationship Change Between Conception and Birth						
Less Formal Union at Birth	—	—	7%	4%	2%	3%
Same Relationship at Birth	40%	34%	59%	53%	98%	97%
More Formal Union at Birth	60%	66%	34%*	44%*	—	—
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Relationship Change Between Conception and 2 Years After Birth						
Less Formal Union 2 Years after Birth	—	—	10%	8%	4%	4%
Same Relationship 2 Years after Birth	32%	62%	44%	42%	96%	96%
More Formal Union 2 Years after Birth	68%	39%	47%	50%	—	—
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

* Difference between planned and unplanned is statistically significant p <0.05