

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics of Independent Variables (% and mean)				
Variables	Common-law	Marriage with prior cohabitation	Marriage without prior cohabitation	All first unions
Demographic variables				
Age at start of union (mean)	23.9	22.6	23.6	23.5
Separation of parents before age 18	100%	100%	100%	100%
No	79%	86%	93%	91%
Yes	21%	14%	7%	9%
Presence of biological or adopted children	100%	100%	100%	100%
No children	71%	57%	42%	48%
Child adopted or conceived before the start of union	8%	6%	5%	6%
Child adopted or conceived after the start of union	21%	37%	53%	46%
Presence of stepchildren	100%	100%	100%	100%
No stepchildren	91%	94%	98%	97%
Stepchildren	9%	6%	2%	3%
Cohort of union formation				
1970-1979 (33% of population)	5%	19%	76%	100%
1980-1989 (33% of population)	13%	26%	61%	100%
1990-1999 (26 % of population)	16%	25%	59%	100%
2000-2006 (7% of population)	33%	18%	49%	100%
Socioeconomic variables				
Educational level upon entering first union	100%	100%	100%	100%
Less than high school	20%	14%	16%	16%
High school degree	29%	29%	27%	27%
Post-secondary education	35%	40%	36%	37%
University degree	16%	17%	21%	20%
School enrollment	100%	100%	100%	100%
In school	30%	27%	19%	22%
Not in school	70%	73%	81%	78%
Employment status	100%	100%	100%	100%
Not employed	19%	17%	20%	19%
Employed	81%	83%	80%	81%
Cultural variables				
Religion attendance	100%	100%	100%	100%
Not at all	55%	53%	33%	39%
Infrequently	35%	34%	31%	32%
At least once a month	10%	13%	36%	29%
Region of current residence				
Québec (25% of population)	30%	27%	43%	100%
Rest of Canada (75% of population)	9%	22%	69%	100%
Size of current community				
Urban area (80% of population)	14%	23%	63%	100%
Rural area (20% of population)	15%	25%	60%	100%
TOTAL	17%	16%	67%	100%
Unweighted N	2,050	1,911	8,105	12,067

Source: General Social Survey, Statistics Canada, 2006 (with population weights)

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McGill Sociological Review, Vol. 2, April 2011