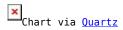# Want a Long-Lasting Marriage? Avoid Cohabitation.

In the last several decades, the frequency of couples living together before marriage has grown at such a great rate that to suggest a couple avoid doing so is regarded as prudish.

Yet according to a new [Pew Research report](), cohabiting couples are setting themselves up for future divorce.

> *"Among women who did not live with their spouse before getting married for the first time, 57% can expect to still be married after 20 years.* **For women who lived with their spouse before marriage, the probability of being married for at least 20 years is somewhat lower – 46%.** *Whether the couple was engaged when they lived together didn't make a difference in women's chances of long-lasting marriages.*
>
> *For men, the patterns are slightly different. In this case, it matters whether men are engaged to a partner they lived with before getting married.* **Men who lived with their future spouse without being engaged had a slightly lower chance of having a long-term marriage (49%)** *than those who were engaged first (57%). Men who didn't live with their partner before getting married had a 60% chance of celebrating their 20th anniversary."*

Chart via [Quartz]()

Such findings underscore [past research]() showing that cohabitation increases depression, diminishes relationships with extended family, and decreases sexual satisfaction. Given these facts, does avoiding cohabitation seem to be a matter of common sense rather than a prudish whim?