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Title:
Emerging Trends in Cohabitation in New Zealand: A Cohort Analysis

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Abstract:
This paper draws on our on-going research into changing family formation dynamics in New Zealand. The analysis provides a cohort and period perspective on emerging trends and patterns in informal cohabitation, using data from the last five Censuses of Population and Dwellings.

In principle, the period series has tended to exaggerate the growth of informal cohabitation as a social phenomenon. Although the cohort series is also affected by the dissolution and re-formation of unions, the changes in the overall incidence of cohabitation are less spectacular, and also lend useful insight into likely future levels of cohabitation at older ages.