

TABLE 2

## Premarital Predictors of Marital Quality

	Mean (SD) or percentage	Average Marital Quality	Average Marital Quality (with controls)
<b>Socio-demographic factors</b>			
Gender	65 percent	-0.60*	
Years of education	15 years	0.05	
Graduated with high school diploma	95 percent	2.30***	
Graduated college with bachelor's degree	56 percent	0.54*	
Income	\$20,000-29,999	-0.01	
Race (White reference group)			
Hispanic/Latino	9 percent	-0.04	
Black or African American	9 percent	-2.69***	
"Other"	6 percent	0.80*	
All things considered, how religious would you say you are?	4.18 (1.69)	0.12	
How often do you attend religious services?	Several times/yr	0.06	
Lived with biological parents at age 14	75 percent	1.16***	0.54+
Ever arrested before marriage?	17 percent	-0.36	-0.02
<b>Individuals' prior relationship experiences</b>			
Only had sex with future spouse, no others	23 percent	1.04***	0.58*
Number of prior sex partners	8.78 (10.72) <i>Mdn 5</i>	-0.05***	-0.04**
Ever cohabited with someone else?	39 percent	-1.08**	-0.83**
Entering a first marriage	91 percent	1.06*	1.06*
Child(ren) from prior relationship(s)	16 percent	-1.82***	-1.32***
Partner has child(ren) from prior relationship(s)	16 percent	-1.72***	-1.13**
<b>Couple premarital behavior and dynamics</b>			
Age at marriage (in years)	27.85 (4.42)	-0.11***	-0.11**
Length of relationship before marriage (months)	58.37 (38.65)	0.002	0.004
Child(ren) or pregnant together before marriage	18 percent	-1.45***	-1.18***
Began relationship with "hooking up"	32 percent	-0.95**	-0.67*
Had sexual relations with someone else while dating	16 percent	-0.67+	-0.30
Partner had sexual relations with someone else	10 percent	-1.23**	-0.77+
Ever reported physical aggression before marriage	53 percent	-0.81**	-0.70**
Lived together before commitment to marry	28 percent	-0.68*	-0.56+
Among those cohabiting prior to marriage, decided to live together (rather than slid)	3.80 (1.39)	0.35**	0.30*
Respondent perceived that he/she was more committed than the partner premaritally	16 percent	-1.54***	-1.26***
Respondent perceived that he/she was less committed than the partner premaritally	11 percent	-0.69	-0.66
Premarital education <sup>a</sup>	43 percent	1.12**	0.86*
Did you have a wedding?	90 percent	1.64***	1.07*
How many people attended your wedding?	116.92 (98.29)	0.007***	0.005***

*Notes.* \*\*\* $p < .001$ , \*\* $p < .01$ , \* $p < .05$ , + $p < .10$ . Control variables include years of education, income, Hispanic/Latino, Black or African American, other non-White, religiousness ("All things considered, how religious would you say you are?"), religious attendance ("How often do you attend religious services?"). <sup>a</sup>Data were only available for 223 participants because the question was not asked at every wave of the survey.