staff as private physician or HMO or clinic. We could not examine the number of prenatal care visits because those data were not collected in the 1995 NSFG.

**Analyses**

The descriptive results are presented as weighted percentages, using a poststratified weight adjusted for nonresponse and sample design. Standard errors for all bivariate and multivariate analyses have been computed using SUDAAN statistical software in conjunction with SAS, to account for the complex survey design of the NSFG. We determined whether differences in percentages were statistically significant at the 5% alpha level by assessing overlap between the percentages’ 95% confidence intervals. We generated unadjusted odds ratios to indicate the crude effects of each independent variable among all women.

To address the possibility of interactions among race and ethnicity, low birth weight and other variables, we also examined unadjusted odds ratios within the racial and ethnic groups considered. For example, if there were an interaction among race and ethnicity, relationship characteristics and low birth weight, we would expect to see different associations between relationship characteristics and low birth weight across the different racial and ethnic groups.

To assess the impact of the relationship variables on the likelihood of low birth weight, excluding other covariates, we performed multiple logistic regressions. Using SUDAAN’s RLOGIST procedure, we estimated the odds of low birth weight associated with relationship characteristics for a woman’s most recent singleton live birth after adjusting for selected characteristics. We did not include father’s age at conception or timing of first prenatal care visit in the final logistic regressions because their unadjusted odds ratios were not significant at the 10% alpha level.

**Results**

**Characteristics by Relationship Type**

More than two-thirds (69%) of U.S. women with a recent singleton birth were married to the father of the baby at the time of conception; 12% were cohabiting and 19% had some other type of relationship with the father.* Of those women who were not married to the father at conception (approximately 4.1 million women), almost 40% were cohabiting with him.

There was not a statistically significant difference by relationship type at conception in the percentages of women whose infants weighed less than 2,500 g (Table 1). However, there were statistically significant differences by relationship type in the characteristics of women and their relationships. For example, cohabiting women tended to be in relationships that were shorter in duration at the time of conception than those of married women and longer in duration than those of unmarried, noncohabiting women. Cohabiting women were younger than married women and older than women in other types of nonmarital relationships. In addition, there was a statistically significant difference in the percentage distributions of women in each type of rela-

![Table 1. Percentage distribution (and standard errors) of U.S. women aged 15–44 with a recent singleton birth, by selected characteristics, according to relationship type at conception, 1995 National Survey of Family Growth](attachment:image)

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*Percentages are weighted.

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*Data for this variable were missing for some cases; missing data were not included in calculations of percentages. ‡Cases for which pregnancy intendedness was undetermined are included in the total. Note: All Ns are unweighted; all percentages are weighted.