Edith Clarke in her case study in Jamaica (1966) came up with the presence of union in Jamaica based on marriage and concubinage (common-law cohabitation).

She also noted that persons living openly in concubinage are not admitted to full membership in recognized churches.

Chuter (1983) argued that in most cases, cohabitation is only a temporary phrase as most who cohabit, get married eventually.

Joan Chandelier (1993) sees the increase in marriage as more significant couples who choose to remain as a long-term alternative to marriage. It is reflected in the increasing proportion of children born out of marriage. Partners do not feel the urge to get married to legitimize a pregnancy.