



# Seddons/ Populus polling for Marriage Week

## The Research

The research was undertaken by Populus between 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2017. In total, there were 2,087 UK respondents. The research was commissioned by Seddons, in conjunction with the Marriage Foundation for Marriage Week, which has published the following additional findings:

- Of those respondents who are currently in a relationship, but not yet married or in a civil partnership, 48% have made plans for their family (e.g. having children, more children, their education or caring for elderly parents), 65% have made plans for a home together (such as buying together, moving or renovating), and 56% have made plans for their work/career and how it will fit with their partner's or with family responsibilities.
- Of those respondents who are currently not married, 37% want to marry, 39% do not want to marry, and 23% are not sure.
- Of those respondents who are currently not married, the reasons given were:
  - I have not met the right person (31%)
  - I don't believe it's necessary (23%)
  - I can't afford a wedding (17%)
  - I am too young (15%)
  - I have been married before and do not plan to get married again (15%)
  - I have not been in a relationship long enough (11%)
  - I am recently separated/divorced/ widowed (9%)
  - I don't believe in marriage (8%)
  - I'm waiting for him/her to ask (5%)
  - I have prioritised my career (5%)
  - My partner doesn't believe in marriage (3%)



**Full polling results**

**Q.1 Which of the following best describes your relationship status?**

**Base: All respondents**

	Total	London	Male	Female
Unweighted base	2087	216	989	1098
Weighted base	2087	269	1018	1069
Married	919 44%	90 34%	480 47%	440 41%
In a civil partnership	27 1%	3 1%	13 1%	15 1%
Cohabiting	312 15%	35 13%	147 14%	166 16%
In a relationship but not living together	120 6%	21 8%	47 5%	73 7%
Single (including separated, widowed etc.)	693 33%	119 44%	328 32%	365 34%
Other	15 1%	1 *	5 1%	10 1%



NET: Not married	1140	176	526	614
	55%	65%	52%	57%

**Q.2 Did you enter into a pre-nuptial agreement ('Pre-nup') before getting married?**

**Base: All married respondents**

	Total	London	Male	Female
Unweighted base	916	77	462	454
Weighted base	919	90	480	440
Yes	18 2%	5 5%	16 3%	3 1%
No-however we researched and/or discussed the possibility of getting a 'Pre-nup'	18 2%	5 6%	7 1%	11 3%
No - getting a 'Prenup' was never discussed	875 95%	77 85%	453 94%	422 96%
Not sure	8 1%	3 3%	4 1%	4 1%
NET: No	893 97%	83 91%	460 96%	433 98%

**Q.3 Please specify the main reason why did you not enter into a pre-nuptial agreement?**

**Base: All married respondents who haven't entered into a pre-nuptial agreement**

	Total	London	Male	Female
Unweighted base	889	70	444	445
Weighted base	893	83	460	433
I was happy to keep to the traditional marriage system	399 45%	28 33%	230 50%	169 39%
Getting a 'pre-nup' never crossed my mind	343 38%	40 48%	163 35%	180 42%
My partner and I had similar salaries/savings so didn't think it necessary	55 6%	5 6%	16 3%	39 9%
I did not like the idea of a 'pre-nup'	38 4%	4 5%	21 5%	17 4%
I was too uncomfortable to bring up the subject with my partner	11 1%	4 5%	9 2%	2 *
I wanted a 'pre-nup' but my partner did not	- -	- -	- -	- -
Other	47 5%	2 3%	21 4%	26 6%

**Q.4 Have you entered into a legal cohabitation agreement with your partner?**

**Base: All cohabiting respondents**

	Total	London	Male	Female
Unweighted base	311	30	135	176
Weighted base	312	35	147	166
Yes - we have a legal cohabitation agreement	12 4%	- -	5 3%	7 4%
No - however we have FORMALLY decided how to split our belongings if we were to breakup	17 5%	2 6%	8 5%	9 6%
No - however we have INFORMALLY discussed how to split our belongings if we were to breakup	41 13%	4 10%	18 12%	23 14%
No - the subject has never been discussed	226 72%	30 84%	103 70%	123 74%
Not sure	17 5%	- -	13 9%	4 2%
NET: No	284 91%	35 100%	129 88%	155 94%

**Q.5 Were you previously aware of the existence of legal cohabitation agreements?**  
**Base: All cohabiting respondents who haven't entered into a legal cohabitation agreement**

	Total	London	Male	Female
Unweighted base	287	30	121	166
Weighted base	284	35	129	155
Yes	39 14%	5 14%	22 17%	17 11%
No	224 79%	30 86%	97 76%	127 82%
Not sure	21 7%	- -	9 7%	12 7%

**Q.6 Have you ever discussed with your partner:**

**Base: All cohabiting respondents/respondents who are in a relationship but not living together**

	Making a formal legal commitment by way of marriage with a 'prenup'	Making a formal legal commitment by way of marriage without a 'prenup'	Making a formal legal commitment by way of civil partnership with a 'prenup'	Making a formal legal commitment by way of civil partnership without a 'prenup'	Plans for your family (e.g. having children, more children, their education, caring for elderly parents)'	Plans for a home together (such as buying together, moving, renovating)'	Plans for you work/career (how it will fit with your partner's, or with family responsibilities)'
Unweighted base	425	425	425	425	425	425	425



Weighted base	433	433	433	433	433	433	433	433
Yes	41 9%	79 18%	16 4%	19 4%	206 48%	281 65%	241 56%	
No	349 81%	318 73%	344 80%	338 78%	176 41%	121 28%	150 35%	
Not applicable	42 10%	36 8%	72 17%	76 18%	51 12%	31 7%	42 10%	
<b>London results</b>								
Unweighted base	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44
Weighted base	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56
Yes	5 8%	12 21%	2 4%	5 8%	32 57%	41 73%	33 59%	
No	50 88%	43 76%	50 89%	48 85%	21 37%	12 21%	17 31%	
Not applicable	2 3%	2 3%	4 7%	4 7%	3 5%	3 5%	6 10%	

**Q.7 Do you want to marry?**

**Base: All unmarried respondents**

	Total	London	Male	Female
Unweighted base	1145	137	516	629
Weighted base	1140	176	526	614
Yes	425 37%	82 47%	190 36%	234 38%
No	449 39%	60 34%	207 39%	242 39%
Not sure	267 23%	34 19%	129 25%	138 22%

**Q.8 What are the main reasons you are not married?**

**Base: All unmarried respondents**

	Total	London	Male	Female
Unweighted base	1145	137	516	629
Weighted base	1140	176	526	614
I have not met the right person	359 31%	70 40%	183 35%	176 29%
I don't believe it's necessary	266 23%	36 21%	143 27%	123 20%
I can't afford a wedding	192	19	94	98





	17%	11%	18%	16%
I am too young	170 15%	40 23%	81 15%	90 15%
I have been married before and do not plan to get married again	166 15%	14 8%	66 13%	100 16%
I have not been in a relationship long enough	121 11%	27 15%	65 12%	56 9%
I am recently separated/divorced/ widowed	105 9%	12 7%	33 6%	72 12%
I don't believe in marriage	95 8%	28 16%	61 12%	34 6%
I'm waiting for him/her to ask	52 5%	10 6%	2 *	50 8%
I have prioritised my career	52 5%	15 8%	26 5%	26 4%
My partner doesn't believe in marriage	36 3%	7 4%	13 3%	23 4%
Don't know	77 7%	14 8%	50 10%	27 4%



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### **About Seddons**

[Seddons](#) is a leading law firm based in London's West End offering a breadth of commercial and private client expertise. The firm delivers practical, cost effective, legal advice across a range of specialisms with particular expertise in real estate, corporate, dispute resolution and family law. The Family Team is able to advise on all family matters including matrimonial disputes, with particular expertise in divorce, family and children matters.

The firm's clients encompass corporations, small and medium sized enterprises, entrepreneurs, and private individuals, with clients based across the UK and internationally and in a wide range of sectors.

Seddons is highlighted as a 2017 leading firm by Legal 500, the leading guide to UK law firms and ranked in the Chambers UK Guide to law firms 2017.

### **About Marriage Foundation**

Marriage Foundation was founded by Sir Paul Coleridge, a High Court judge, who was moved by his personal experience in 40 years as a barrister and judge specialising in family law. The think tank seeks to improve public understanding of marriage and to reduce the numbers of people drawn into the family justice system – some 500,000 children and adults each year.

Marriage Foundation has highlighted the crisis of family breakdown. Their research has found that a child born today only has a 50 per cent chance of living with both parents by the time they reach fifteen.

A source of statistics on marriage, cohabitation, commitment, divorce and family breakdown can be found on the Marriage Foundation website: <http://marriagefoundation.org.uk/>

### **About Marriage Week**

Marriage Week is an annual event for couples to take time to pause and learn some new skills to take their marriages from good to very good. The wedding day is only the start and all marriages can get better and better with each passing year.

Marriage Week UK is coordinated by Marriage Foundation – the national champion for marriage. It is widely supported by charities and individuals who believe that healthy marriages bring benefits for all of society and should be encouraged and supported wherever possible.

Marriage Week is a primary preventative campaign which seeks to highlight the benefits of healthy marriage to society, media and governments, whilst seeking to educate and inform couples regarding the benefits of an ever improving relationship, through largely local events, and media coverage.