

## Put a ring on it? Millennial couples are in no hurry

### Notes & Cues:

### Article:

When it comes to serious lifelong relationships, new research suggests, millennials proceed with caution. Young adults are not only marrying and having children later in life than previous generations, but taking more time to get to know each other before they tie the knot. Indeed, some spend the better part of a decade as friends or romantic partners before marrying, according to new research by eHarmony, an online dating site

The eHarmony report on relationships found that American couples aged 25 to 34 knew each other for an average of six and a half years before marrying, compared with an average of five years for all other age groups.

Julianne Simson, 24, and her boyfriend, Ian Donnelly, 25, are typical. They have been dating since they were in high school and have lived together in New York City since graduating from college, but are in no rush to get married.

Ms. Simson said: "I'll get married when my life is more in order." She has a long to-do list to get through before then, starting with the couple paying down student loans and gaining more financial security. She'd like to travel and explore different careers, and is considering law school. "My mom says I'm removing all the romance from the equation, but I know there's more to marriage than just love. If it's just love, I'm not sure it would work."

Andrew Cherlin, a sociologist at Johns Hopkins, calls these "capstone marriages." "The capstone is the last brick you put in place to build an arch," Dr. Cherlin said. "Marriage used to be the first step into adulthood. Now it is often the last."

### Summary: