

# What are your thoughts on these statistics?

9 upvotes | 27 September, 2022 | by BlindMaestro

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Factors found to facilitate infidelity

Number of sex partners: Greater number of sex partners before marriage predicts infidelity

As might be expected, attitudes toward infidelity specifically, permissive attitudes toward sex more generally and a greater willingness to have casual sex and to engage in sex without closeness, commitment or love (i.e., a more unrestricted sociosexual orientation) are also reliably related to infidelity (pg.71)

Fincham, F. D., & May, R. W. (2017). Infidelity in romantic relationships. *Current opinion in psychology*, 13, 70–74.

Men apparently assess and evaluate levels of sexual activity by a woman prior to long-term commitment—behavior that would have been observable or known through social reputation in the small-group lifestyles of our ancestors. Past behavior is a good predictor of future behavior, and having a large number of sex partners prior to marriage is a statistical predictor of infidelity after marriage (pg.92)

Buss, D. M., & Schmitt, D. P. (2019). Mate preferences and their behavioral manifestations. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 70, 77–110.

the odds ratio of 1.13 for lifetime sexual partners obtained with the face-to-face mode of interview indicates that the probability of infidelity increased by 13% for every additional lifetime sexual partner (pg.150)

Whisman, M. A., & Snyder, D. K. (2007). Sexual infidelity in a national survey of American women: Differences in prevalence and correlates as a function of method of assessment. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 21(2), 147–154.

promiscuity is in fact a good predictor of infidelity. Indeed, promiscuity among females accounted for almost twice as much variance in infidelity ( $r^2 = .45$ ) as it did for males ( $r^2 = .25$ ). (pg.177)

Hughes, S. M., & Gallup, G. G., Jr. (2003). Sex differences in morphological predictors of sexual behavior: Shoulder to hip and waist to hip ratios. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 24(3), 173–178.

Each additional sex partner between age 18 and the first union increased the net odds of infidelity by 1% (pg.56)

Treas, J., & Giesen, D. (2000). Sexual Infidelity Among Married and Cohabiting Americans. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 62(1), 48–60.

Sexual promiscuity was significantly positively correlated with emotional promiscuity [ $r(356) = .261, p < .001$ ], as well with sexual infidelity [ $r(323) = .595, p < .001$ ] and emotional infidelity [ $r(323) = .676, p < .001$ ] (pg.390)

Pinto, R., & Arantes, J. (2017). The Relationship between Sexual and Emotional Promiscuity and Infidelity. *Athens Journal of Social Sciences*, 4(4), 385–398.

Regarding other sexual behaviors, we examined whether number of prior sex partners and viewing pornography predicted ESI. As has been found in prior research (Feldman & Cauffman, 1999; Treas & Giesen, 2000), having had more prior sex partners predicted future ESI (pg.12)

Maddox Shaw, A. M., Rhoades, G. K., Allen, E. S., Stanley, S. M., & Markman, H. J. (2013). Predictors of Extradyadic Sexual Involvement in Unmarried Opposite-Sex Relationships. *Journal of Sex Research*, 50(6), 598–610.

When compared with their peers who report fewer partners, those who self-report 20 or more in their lifetime are:

- Twice as likely to have ever been divorced (50 percent vs. 27 percent)
- Three times as likely to have cheated while married
- Substantially less happy with life ( $p < 0.05$ ) (pg.88-89)

Regnerus, M. (2017). Cheap sex: The transformation of men, marriage, and monogamy.

women who had more experience with short-term relationships in the past (i.e., those with high Behavior facet scores) were more likely to have multiple sexual partners and unstable relationships in the future. The behaviorally expressed level of sociosexuality thus seems to be a fairly stable personal characteristic. (pg.1131)

Penke, L., & Asendorpf, J. B. (2008). Beyond global sociosexual orientations: a more differentiated look at sociosexuality and its effects on courtship and romantic relationships. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 95(5), 1113–1135.

Generally speaking, respondents who report extensive premarital sexual experience report extensive extramarital activity. Measures of the locus of first intercourse and number of premarital partners show positive associations with (1) rating one's marriage as less happy than average, (2) the number of different extramarital partners, and (3) the intention to participate in mate-swapping activities. (pg.221-222)

Athanasiou, R., & Sarkin, R. (1974). Premarital sexual behavior and postmarital adjustment. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 3(3), 207–225.

The findings from this study demonstrate that the number of sexual partners participants had was negatively associated with sexual quality, communication, and relationship stability, and for one age cohort relationship satisfaction, even when controlling for a wide range of variables including education, religiosity, and relationship length. (pg.715)

Busby, D. M., Willoughby, B. J., & Carroll, J. S. (2013). Sowing wild oats: Valuable experience or a field full of weeds? *Personal Relationships*, 20(4), 706–718.

As predicted, such factors as sexual permissiveness, an avoidant romantic style, number of romantic relationships, and early onset of sexual intercourse were all correlated with a higher incidence of betrayal behaviors. These factors are likely to promote sexual activity with a larger number of partners, which, in turn, increases the chance that betrayal will occur. (pg.247)

Feldman, S. S., & Cauffman, E. (1999). Your cheatin' heart: Attitudes, behaviors, and correlates of sexual betrayal in late adolescents. *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, 9(3), 227–252.

There was a strong association between number of sexual partners and having an STD: those women with 5 or more sexual partners were 8 times more likely to report having an STD than those with only 1 partner, even after adjusting for age at first intercourse

Joffe, G. P., Foxman, B., Schmidt, A. J., Farris, K. B., Carter, R. J., Neumann, S., Tolo, K. A., & Walters, A. M. (1992). Multiple partners and partner choice as risk factors for sexually transmitted disease among female college students. *Sexually transmitted diseases*, 19(5), 272–278.

An indicator of whether or not the respondent has had previous sex partners is included and identifies the number of male sex partners the woman had previous to her relationship with her current primary partner... A history of numerous sex partners indicates a pattern or habit of sexual behavior that we expect will negatively influence sexual exclusivity in the current relationship. (pg.37)

Having previous sexual partners greatly increased the likelihood that a woman would have a secondary sex partner. In particular, a woman with 4 or more male sex partners prior to her primary relationship was about 8.5 times more likely to have a secondary sex partner than a woman with no previous sex partners... Having previous sex partners also increased the likelihood that dating and married women would have secondary sex partners. In particular, married women with 4 or more previous partners were 20 times more likely to have secondary sex partners than married women with no previous sex partners (pg.41)

Forste, R., & Tanfer, K. (1996). Sexual exclusivity among dating, cohabiting, and married women. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 58(1), 33–47.

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## Comments

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Play\_Muted • 3 points • 27 September, 2022 08:21 PM

I dont find these surprising so I dont think anything, im just waiting for people to try to discredit these studies with some bs arguments.

decoy88 • 2 points • 28 September, 2022 07:11 AM

Women with low impulse control are more likely to cheat and jump at every opportunity for sexual gratification. Women who are absolute pains to deal with in relationships are more likely to ruin them, meaning they are more likey to break up, get a new partner, breakup again. Resulting in multiple partners over a short period of time.

nicethingyoucant have • 2 points • 28 September, 2022 03:53 PM

Just playing devil's advocate: a cofounding variable that you'd need to control for in most of those studies is the effect of a very strict culture on behavior.

To put that another way, maybe they cheat and divorce less often for the same reason they get laid less often: because their peer group discourages it.

RStonePT • 2 points • 28 September, 2022 04:49 PM\*

I've yet to see a statistic anywhere, about anything, that allowed me to make a better choice in life.

Lies, damned lies etc.

but specifically on this one, those are QUAL studies. They exist to help researchers find how best to frame hypothesis so they can conduct QUAN studies, which are the science people usually think of when they say science. They aren't descriptions of truth, unless you take science to be interchangeable with religion (which people seem to do now)

Example

those women with 5 or more sexual partners were 8 times more likely to report having an STD than those with only 1 partner, even after adjusting for age at first intercourse

I'm always distrustful of half a number. 8x more likely than what? If someone has a 10% chance of reporting an STD, 8x more means 80%, which is a disaster! But if someone has a baseline .003% chance, then a .024% chance doesn't really mean anything to me. Lies are always in the numbers.

So yeah, this isn't a research paper that says whoring is ruining the west, it's a paper telling people where they can guide research to actually discover things... and then figure out how to beat the ~70% replication crisis the social sciences have ATM.

I'll trust experience over stats at this point.

mcove97 • -1 points • 28 September, 2022 09:26 AM

My thoughts are, yeah and?

I'm not a particular monogamous person so I couldn't care less. If someone isn't meeting my needs sexually or otherwise, they're not someone I'm willing to remain in a monogamous relationship with, and I hope that if I'm not able to meet a guys sexual needs, that they're not willing to be in a monogamous relationship with me either, and will be as honest as me about not having their needs met

There's no infidelity to be had if you leave a relationship that don't please you. My biggest beef with people is that they're not willing to be honest about their sexual needs, and they're not willing to leave partners that don't fulfill or meet their needs.

N count isn't directly what's causing infidelity. Peoples not caring about being honest about their sexual needs and not breaking up with partners who don't fulfill their needs is what causes infidelity.

darksoul1622 • 0 points • 27 September, 2022 07:52 PM\*

Okay so I have multiple questions about these stats

1. What is the definition of promiscuity that is used in these studies and in which country did those studies happen promiscuity as I think you understand and is differently interpreted from country to country Middle Eastern country for example will think any number above 1 is promiscuous while for example Sweden would consider a number for example like 10 to be normal.
2. Most of these studies are using percentages increase in the risk of infidelity but what is the rate of infidelity per 1000 because even if promiscuity increases the chance of infidelity is the base chance chance of infidelity is low even an increase as much as 8 times will not be that significant ( an example of what I'm talking about is like the benefits of circumcision on the prevention of HIV transmission the sexual contact is almost 2 times less likely but since the chance of transmitting HIV through sexual contact is as low as 2 per 100 cases the benefits are negligible).
3. in this video there is in my opinion a good critique of the way these studies are conducted I am not sure if he's using any of your resources but it could still be a valid criticism of how these studies are conducted.
4. Are these studies done by independent and neutral institutions or are they paid for by conservative organisations are they peer reviewed and have they been reproduced?.

edit: also the main reason for infidelity is emotional and physical neglect how does that line up with promiscuity predicting infidelity

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/why-do-people-in-relationships-cheat/?amp=true>

SlapThatSillyWilly • 5 points • 27 September, 2022 08:00 PM

consider a number for example like 10 to be normal.

Pure rope fuel.

darksoul1622 • 1 point • 27 September, 2022 08:02 PM

What do you mean

SlapThatSillyWilly • 5 points • 27 September, 2022 08:03 PM

10 is 10 more than I've ever slept with in almost 30 years.

darksoul1622 • 2 points • 27 September, 2022 08:05 PM

Sorry I suppose ?

RStonePT • 1 point • 28 September, 2022 04:53 PM

Where on the bell curve do you place yourself?

throwviaaway • 0 points • 28 September, 2022 09:55 AM

Okay cool, where's the same studies for men?

We\_Are\_All\_One1 points 1 October, 2022 09:03 AM **[recovered]**

Men and women are different: women are far more damaged in a pair-bonding aspect with each additional partner when compared to men.

throwviaaway • 1 point • 1 October, 2022 05:15 PM

That's exactly what I want to see the study for lmao