

DISCLOSURE OF SEXUAL HISTORY IN HOOK UPS, SHORT AND LONG-TERM
RELATIONSHIPS

by

CARLOS F. CAVALIE JR.

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Luis T. Garcia, PhD

and approved by

Luis T. Garcia, PhD

William Tucker, PhD

J.W. Whitlow, PhD

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ABSTRACT OF THESIS

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by CARLOS F CAVALIE JR.

Thesis Director

Luis T. Garcia, PhD

Abstract

Prior research has mainly investigated how dating or married couples discussed sexual topics including disclosing their sexual history. Little attempt has been made to investigate such disclosure among hook ups. Additionally, to my knowledge, differences between different relational types have not been investigated in a single study. The current study investigated disclosure of sexual history among heterosexual long-term relationships, short-term relationships, and hook ups. Participants were university students as well as visitors to websites which hosted links to the online questionnaire. Results suggest that heterosexuals in such relational groups do discuss their sexual history though the honesty of such disclosure is in question. Additionally, a gender difference was found in what men and women believed their partners desired in an ideal partner. How participants presented themselves to their partners was significantly correlated with what they believed their partners' ideal was. Results are discussed in the context of previous research including impression management literature. Possible sexual health implications are also discussed.

Disclosure of sexual history in hook ups, short and long-term relationships

There has not been much research on disclosure of sexual history between couples. Moreover, the literature available reveals a lack of uniformity. For example, some have focused on the relationship between disclosure and relationship satisfaction (Byers & Demmons, 1999; Byers, 2005). Others have focused on gender and ethnic differences (Consedine, Sabag-Cohen, & Krivoshekova, 2007). There have also been studies done on discussion of sexual topics among college students in their social circles (Sprecher, Harris, & Meyers, 2008). The only common thread in this literature is that of disclosure or discussion of various sexual topics.

Disclosure and satisfaction

Finkenauer and Hazam (2000) were interested in how satisfaction among married couples was related to disclosure and secrecy. Specifically, they were interested in contextual and dispositional disclosure and secrecy. Contextual indicates that disclosure and secrecy are dependent on the situation, while dispositional suggest disclosure and secrecy are dependent on the person's tendency to disclose or keep secrets.

Participants were married individuals who participated without their spouse (Finkenauer & Hazam, 2000). What the researchers found, using an anonymous questionnaire, is that contextual, not dispositional measures, predicted marital satisfaction. Contextual disclosure was positively related to marital satisfaction. Additionally, it was the quality of the disclosure rather than the amount of disclosure that was positively related to marital satisfaction. For example, sharing the news of a friend's death or a big promotion has a greater impact on the relationship, than discussing the daily commute home. Secrecy was found to be negatively related to marital satisfaction.

That is, participants suggested if they felt their partner was being secretive this would have a negative impact on their marital satisfaction.

In a similar study, Byers (2005) wanted to know if there was an association between relational satisfaction, sexual satisfaction, and communication in a relationship. She conducted a longitudinal study in which participants involved in heterosexual relationships were mailed an anonymous questionnaire and a second questionnaire 18 months later. She reported a connection between relational satisfaction and sexual satisfaction. It was also found that both relational and sexual satisfaction are related to communication. That is, poor communication was associated with decreased relational and sexual satisfaction, and good communication was associated with high levels of relational and sexual satisfaction.

Disclosure of likes and dislikes

Another line of research in sexual disclosure deals specifically with disclosure of the sexual activities that individuals like to engage in. Byers and Demmons (1999) were interested in how this sexual disclosure of likes and dislikes affected sexual satisfaction in a sample of dating heterosexual college students. The researchers had participants fill out a series of questionnaires that assessed their level of sexual and nonsexual disclosure with their partners. The researchers found that their sample, as a whole, disclosed more nonsexual information than sexual information. They also found that women disclosed more sexual and nonsexual information than did the men in the sample. More specific findings suggest that participants who disclosed more about their sexual likes and dislikes showed greater sexual satisfaction with the relationship. Additionally, it was found that participants disclosed more about their sexual likes than dislikes.

Sexual health and disclosure

Widman, Welsh, McNulty, and Little (2006), were interested in the relationship between contraceptive use and general sexual communication as well as factors leading to open communication in adolescent couples. The data came from a preexisting data set on adolescent romantic relationships and it consisted of 17-21 year old, heterosexual, dating adolescents.

The participants were given a booklet with several scales measuring variables like general sexual communication, communication about contraceptive use, and relational satisfaction (Widman et al., 2006). Researchers found that couples who reported being more open about general sexual communication with one another were also more likely to report using contraceptives. Researchers suggested this finding could be due to an overall feeling of intimacy and investment. This is to say, sexual communication may lead to a feeling of intimacy and investment which may lead partners to healthier sexual practices. Additionally, a gender difference was found in self-silencing or keeping their relational wants to themselves. Female participants were more likely to self-silence than males, which was negatively associated with general sexual communication. As previously stated, it was found that general sexual communication was positively associated with contraceptive use; thus female participants were also less likely than males to use contraceptives.

Afifi (1999) was interested in the impact that impression management has on condom use. Participants read a story that led up to a couple having sexual intercourse for the first time. The story was manipulated using two factors. The first was whether or not they wanted to have a long term relationship with this person. The second factor was

whether they felt that condom use would hurt the relationship or not. The researchers suggested that condoms may be seen as suggesting that someone has a sexually transmitted disease. If so, then condom use (or not) may be seen as a form of impression management to keep from hurting the person's image.

The researcher found that participants who were in the condition that had them imagine a scenario where they wanting a long term relationship and their sexual partner had negative feelings about condom use (the use of a condom threatened the relationship) were less likely to use condoms (Afifi, 1999). Another interesting finding was that participants who were in the condition where they were to imagine they did not desire a long-term relationship and their dating partner had negative feeling about condoms were more likely to use condom.

Gender and ethnic differences

Although not specifically dealing with sexual self-disclosure Derlega, Winstead, Wong, and Hunter (1985), investigated self-disclosure upon initial encounter among college students. Students had a brief group conversation about their experience as freshmen and then were placed in individual cubicles. While in the cubicles, participants were led to believe that they were chosen by one of the other students as partners in the exercise. The researchers found that men disclosed more about themselves to female partners than to male partners, while women disclosed an almost equal amount to both sexes. Male self-disclosure was correlated with feelings of liking toward the partner and feelings that the partner liked them. The authors suggested that men may disclose more than women so as to set the pace of the relationship because they are expected to take the initiative in forming the relationship.

Some researchers (Consedine et al., 2007) have investigated gender and ethnic differences in self-disclosure to different targets such as parents, neighbors, significant others, and friends. Participants were U.S. born African American and U.S. born European American university students who completed anonymous questionnaires in a laboratory setting assessing their disclosure of a variety of different topics to different targets in their lives.

The researchers found only marginally significant ethnic differences in self-disclosure (Consedine et al., 2007). It was also found that men self-disclosed more than women about their sexual experience, while women self-disclosed more about nonsexual topics. In general, they found, for all participants, that sexual information was disclosed to significant-others more often than to non-significant others.

Sprecher, Harris, and Meyers (2008) were interested in the source of college students' sexual information and with whom they discussed sexual matters. The researchers were also interested in generational differences, such as where college students from different time periods got their sexual education and whether or not they talked to different people about sexual topics. Among other findings, the researchers found that the source with which sex was most discussed was same-sex friends. The second most talked to source was dating partners. There was also a gender difference in that the women in the sample reported talking to these two sources more often than did the men in the sample.

The Double Standard

Milhausen and Herold (1999) wanted to know if women thought the sexual double standard still existed. The sexual double standard or the traditional sexual script

states it is socially permissible for men to have more than one sexual partner before marriage while it is frowned upon for women to have a large number of sexual partners, if any, before marriage (Reiss, 1956). Moreover, with every new partner a man has, he is evaluated more positively, while a woman is perceived more negatively with each new partner (Byers, 1996).

The participants in this study were all unmarried heterosexual university women students who were given an anonymous questionnaire (Milhausen & Herold, 1999). The researchers found that women did subscribe to a double standard but in the opposite direction they expected. They expected women to view other women who had a large number of sexual partners more negatively than men with large numbers of sexual partners. Instead, women viewed men with large numbers of sexual partners significantly more negatively than they did women with a similar number of sexual partners. They also found that women who had a large number of sexual partners were willing to date a man with a large number of sexual partners. Because the researchers limited their study to women, there were no findings for how men think of the sexual double standard.

A recent study was interested in how gender and belief in the sexual double standard affected sexual communication in heterosexual dating couples (Greene & Faulkner, 2005). The participants were heterosexual couples who had been dating for at least two years. Each individual in the couple completed a questionnaire that asked, among other things, about their sexual self-disclosure with their partner, sexual communication within the couple, their belief in the sexual double standard, and relational satisfaction.

Their results suggest that couples who ascribed less to the sexual double standard were higher in sexual self-disclosure and sexual communication with each other (Greene & Faulkner, 2005). However, this greater openness was not related to greater efficacy. This is to say, though couples who had less traditional beliefs about gender roles communicated more about sexual issues, this did not lead to a greater feeling that they could cause change in their relationship. Women were also more likely to report discussing sexual issues they were having with their partners than did the men. Overall, couples who reported more sexual communication, less sense of efficacy, and higher sexual assertiveness reported higher relational satisfaction.

Ideal Partner

In a series of three experimental surveys Kenrick and colleagues (2001) asked participants to evaluate how attractive they found prospective partners (i.e. the targets) when given sexual information about them. It was found that both college age men and women prefer a sexual partner with some previous sexual experience rather than no sexual experience. Additionally, women saw men with no prior sexual partners significantly less attractive than did men viewing women with no prior sexual partners. It was also found that college age women are more selective about who they chose as sexual partners than their male counterparts who tended to give higher ratings to the targets. Lastly, it was found that regardless of gender the target's level of attractiveness decreased as the number of past sexual partners increased.

In a similar study, Perlini and Boychuk (2006) were interested in the effect that information about a potential sexual partner, a date, or a marriage partner's promiscuity and resourcefulness would have on their attractiveness. Participants were randomly

assigned to one of three groups in which they were given information about a person and shown a photo of him or her. The first condition received information stating the person was highly resourceful (meaning ambitious, high social status, well-educated, and financially secure) and highly promiscuous. The second condition received information stating that the person in the photo was low in resourcefulness and low in promiscuity. The last condition received no information about the person in the photo. The results indicated that males were more willing than females to accept the person in the photo as a sexual partner across all conditions. When it came to dating again, men were more willing than women to go on a date with the person in the photo. Photos viewed without peer information had the highest likelihood of being considered for a date by men. Photos with low resourcefulness and low promiscuity were second highest in likelihood of being considered for a date by men. Targets with high resourcefulness and high promiscuity were the least likely to be dated by men. This same trend was also true of the likelihood of marriage with the targets. Overall, men displayed a greater likelihood of accepting the target as a sex partner, date or wife than women did with the male target.

In a study by Regan and Joshi (2003) 46 adolescents between the ages of 14 and 16 were in a study dealing with what adolescents perceive as an ideal short-term and long-term partner. Most of the participants reported having prior experience in romantic relationships and sexual activity (e.g. performing and receiving oral sex). The researchers used a questionnaire that consisted of a list of 24 desirable characteristics in a partner. Half of the participants were asked which characteristics were desired in a short-term partner and the other half for a long-term partner. It was found that there was no difference between male and female participants. When looking for a long-term partner,

both sexes preferred partners with intellectual qualities. When looking for a short term partner, the participants preferred someone who would exhibit physical and sexual attributes. These findings, as the researchers pointed out, demonstrate that at least in this time in their lives men and women equally value physical (i.e. good looks) and sexual (i.e. sex drive) attributes when looking at short-term partners. Also the findings are interesting because the valuing of these attributes (physical and sexual) is usually associated with men rather than women.

Garcia (2006) was interested in how different dimensions of sexual experience affect how desirable the target is rated as a potential date and spouse. The researcher used a three dimensional model of sexual experience: the number of sexual acts the person has performed, the number of sexual partners the person has had, and the number of times the person has done a particular act. Participants were given a questionnaire booklet containing a heterosexual behavior inventory that was supposedly filled out by someone of the opposite sex but in fact was completed by the researcher to manipulate the dimensions of sexual experience described above. Once the participants had finished reading through the previously filled out inventory they were asked to fill out a questionnaire asking them how experienced they found the target to be and how likely they were to date or marry him/her.

The results of the study suggested that only two of the three dimensions of sexual experience (number of different sexual activities experienced and number of sexual partners) affected how experienced the target was seen. Both men and women reported a preference for a date and spouse who had less experience with different sexual activities and a low number of sexual partners. The author suggested that one possible reason for

this inconsistency with sexual strategies theory could be that men and women interpreted the word “date” not as a short-term mate but rather as someone who was being evaluated as a possible long-term partner. Another interpretation of the finding is that men and women are now being more stringent in their choice of short-term mate because of the threat of STDs.

Overall, the research on ideal partner reveals that a target’s attractiveness is dependent on the situation in which he/she is being evaluated - sexual partner, date, or spouse (Garcia, 2006; Kenrick, et al., 2001; Perlini & Boychuk, 2006; Regan & Joshi, 2003). As a sexual partner some experience is desired by both genders (Kenrick, et al., 2001), while both genders suggest they prefer possible dating and marriage partners with low level of sexual experience (Garcia, 2006). There is some research to suggest that men are not as selective about partners overall than women (Kenrick, et al., 2001; Perlini & Boychuk, 2006).

Impression Management

The act of impression management has been defined by Leary and Kowalski (1990) as “the process by which individuals attempt to control the impressions others form of them” (p. 34). The definition goes on to state that the impressions others form have an impact on how others “perceive, evaluate, and treat them” (p. 34).

Impression management is of relevance to the current study on disclosure. While people disclose information to others, in this case people they are sexually involved with, it may also be the case that they are attempting to control or manipulate how people view them. In this instance they are managing their impression through what is disclosed.

Online Impression management. .Gibbs, Ellison, and Heino (2006) were interested in how the possibility of future face-to-face interactions affected how people presented themselves in online dating. Participants were members from an online dating site, match.com. Participants completed an online survey asking them about their relational goals, self disclosure, how successful they felt they were, and how much experience they had with online dating.

Among other findings, the researchers found that participants who were interested in face-to-face relationships were more likely to disclose personal information, be more honest in their disclosure, and thought out their disclosures more than those that were not interested in face-to-face relationships (Gibbs et al, 2006).

In a related study, the same group of researchers found, through semi-structured phone interviews, that participants felt members of the online dating site were deceptive in a variety of ways (Ellison, Heino, & Gibbs, 2006). For example, some people presented themselves on their profiles in idealized descriptions of what they hoped they would be in the near future. Other users lied about demographic data such as age to attract people they felt were better matches for them. Participants also felt that some users may have accidentally misled others because of skewed or unrealistic self perceptions.

While the specific findings of the research done in the context of internet dating may not be completely applicable to the impression management occurring in face-to-face interactions, the general findings are helpful in understanding how people attempt to present themselves to those they wish to have a romantic relationship with. It may be safe to say that those who manage their impressions online are also likely to do the same in their daily lives, though given the specific limitation of communications through

computers people may have an easier time doing so online. It is easy to imagine that people who meet in person and would like to carry on a relationship would disclose in a similar manner as those meeting first through the internet (Gibbs et al., 2006). Likewise, those wanting to make a good first impression on someone may also deceive in similar ways as participants suggested people online did, such as lying about their age (Ellison et al., 2006).

Impression management in the laboratory. A group of researchers were interested in subjects' willingness to lie to a date based on the target's attractiveness (Rowatt, Cunningham, & Druen, 1999). Participants participated in two sessions. During the first session participants rated themselves on a variety of scales such as personal attributes, self-deception, and impression management. In the second session, participants were told that they could go on a date with a volunteer. They were given two profiles which contained a headshot and what the volunteers were looking for in ideal dating partners. The researchers balanced each profile by giving each physically unattractive target an attractive personality trait and each physically attractive target an unattractive personality trait. Participants were also given a chance to construct a profile to be sent to the volunteer. Researchers assessed changes between participants' first and second session information as lies to the target.

The results suggested that participants changed their information to meet the target's ideal. It was also found that participants were more willing to lie to facially attractive participants than to facially unattractive participants (Rowatt et al., 1999).

Boon and McLeod (2001) were interested in participants' attitudes and willingness to lie to their romantic partners, as well as their perceived success rate.

Participants were college students who were currently in, or had been in a heterosexual relationship, and they were given questionnaires measuring the variables described above.

Among other findings, the researchers found that the majority of participants believed that complete honesty was the best thing for a relationship (Boon & McLeod, 2001). At the same time, it was found that participants felt that certain situations, such as protecting the relationship and partner, called for deception.

In a related study, Marelich and colleagues (2008) were interested in participants' deception within the context of sexual activities. The participants were college students who completed an online survey. The survey consisted of yes/no answers to questions about their deceptive practices in the context of sexual activities such as telling someone they loved them so they could have sex with them.

Among other findings, the researchers found that participants who scored high in deception were also more likely to have one night stands, a high numbers of sexual partners, and to deceive others by saying they had fewer sexual partners than they really did (Marelich, Lundquist, Painter, & Mechanic, 2008).

The literature on impression management suggests that people are willing to manage their impression in a variety of settings (Boon & McLeod, 2001; Gibbs et al., 2006; Rowatt et al., 1999; Marelich et al., 2008). They do this when first meeting someone, attempting to get a date, and within established relationships. Often this impression management seems to take the form of presenting themselves in a way pleasing to the other person.

As a whole, the research suggests sexual self-disclosure and communication are not simple or straightforward, but rather complex. Upon first meeting, men disclose more about themselves when they like the women they are communicating with (Derlega et al., 1985). When asked as a hypothetical in a survey, women's answers suggest that they prefer to match on number of sexual partners when dating men (Milhausen & Herold, 1999). Some research suggests that sexual experience (i.e. what they have done and how many partners) plays an important role in how attractive marriage and dating partners are evaluated (Garcia, 2006; Perlini & Boychuk, 2006; Regan & Joshi, 2003).

Research into self-disclosure within dating couples suggests that people are more comfortable disclosing nonsexual information than sexual information (Byers & Demmons, 1999). People seem to be slightly more comfortable talking about sex with same-sex friends than with their significant other (Sprecher et al., 2008). However, when gender is taken into consideration, men indicate they would be more comfortable making sexual self-disclosure than women (Consedine et al., 2007). Findings on self-disclosure within couples should also be looked at in the context of the impression management literature. Some research suggests that people mislead one another about their personal information including sexual information (Boon & McLeod, 2001; Marelich et al., 2008; Rowatt et al., 1999).

The proposed research questions are important because the implications they have for relational satisfaction and sexual health, as well as for our understanding of relationships. If sexual history is never discussed, there may be a sense that this part of the partners' lives is off limits. This limit to what can and can not be discussed could

make curious partners feel like they do not know their partners as well as they would like. This in turn could lead to negative effects in relational satisfaction.

Additionally, discussing sexual history may also have implications for sexual health concerns. It is safe to say that every time an individual has sex his/her chances of contracting a sexually transmitted infection increases with each new partner. Discussing, among other things, number of sexual partner may permit a person to make an informed decision about engaging in a sexual relationship with a person and how to go about doing so. Previous research suggests couples who are open about general sexual communication are also more likely to use contraceptives (Widman et al., 2006).

Research questions

The proposed research will investigate the following questions. Do heterosexual individuals talk about their sexual history with one another? Are some relational groups (long-term, short-term, or hook ups) more likely to discuss their sexual history than the others? What do participants believe about their partner's expectations in terms of a partner's sexual history? Do people in these heterosexual dyads present their sexual history in accordance with what they believe is their partner's expectation or preference?

Additionally, the following secondary questions are asked. Is there a gender difference in self-disclosure and being asked about sexual history? Will there be a difference between long-term, short-term, and hook ups in how participants learned about their partner's sexual history? Did participants know something about his/her partners sexual past prior to their relationship? Is openness about sexual history related to relational satisfaction? Are levels of masculinity and femininity related to how people present themselves to their partners?

Before continuing there is a need to define some of the terms used above. Hook ups have been defined by researchers as sexual encounters that can be anything from kissing to sexual intercourse with someone the individual has known briefly or just met (Glenn & Marquardt, 2001; Lambert, Kahn, & Apple, 2003; Paul, McManus, & Hayes, 2000). “In addition, hookups are usually anonymous in that the partners are strangers or only brief acquaintances and rarely continue to build a relationship, let alone see each other again” (Paul et al., 2000 p. 76). Schmitt (2003) defined short-term mating as a “fleeting sexual encounter such as a one-night stand,” while long-term mating can be defined as “extended courtship, heavy investment, the emotion of love, and the dedication of resources over a long temporal span to the mating relationship and any offspring that ensue” (p. 86-87). However, we should take into consideration that these definitions provided by Schmitt define the extreme ends of the spectrum, but there is a large area in the middle for different types of relationships. Though dating is a short-term relationship, in the present research it should not be taken to mean a one night stand. Rather, a more accurate definition of dating is the process “whereby an individual dates someone for the purpose of evaluating that person as a marriage partner” (Garcia, 2006, p. 93). Thus dating could last anywhere from one night to several years as the participants evaluate each other.

Hypotheses

H1. Based on some of the previously mentioned research that suggest heterosexual couples may discuss their sexual history with one another (Consedine et al., 2007; Marelich et al., 2008; Sprecher et al., 2008) and the definition for hook ups researchers have created, suggesting hook ups are fleeting sexual encounters with

strangers lasting only one night (Glenn & Marquardt, 2001; Lambert et al., 2003; Paul et al., 2000) I predict people in short and long-term relationships are more likely than hook ups to discuss their sexual history with one another. Discussing their sexual history was operationalized in the current study as participants disclosing information about their sexual history to their partners or being asked for this information by their partners.

H2. I hypothesize there will be a gender difference in what participants believe their partners expect of an ideal partner's sexual history. Men will believe that their partners would like a partner with a high level of sexual experience. Women will believe that their partners would like a partner with a lower level of sexual experience.

Researchers have suggested there is an unwritten double standard in which men are seen positively for having premarital sexual experience with many different partners, while women are seen negatively for the same (Byers, 1996; Reiss, 1956).

H3. I hypothesize partners present their sexual history in accordance with what they believe the other expects. Prior research has shown that people are willing to and will deceive a potential date and their partner about a variety of personal traits (Boon & McLeod, 2001; Rowatt et al., 1999). Other research suggests that people deceive their sexual partners about their number of previous sexual partners (Marelich et al., 2008). This deception could be viewed as a form of impression management since they are attempting to control the information others receive about them to form a picture of who they are (Leary & Kowalski, 1990).

No hypotheses are offered for the other questions because there is not enough research on which to base a hypothesis.

Method

Participants

There were 357 total participants. One hundred and six participants were eliminated for being part of a pilot test who knew the hypotheses, not signing the consent form, identifying as homosexual as the study was only open to heterosexuals, or starting but not answering any of the questions in the questionnaire. This left 251 total participants, 88 men and 163 women ($M = 26.32$, $SD = 6.44$). Seventy-eight percent of the sample identified as white, 10% as African American, 3% as Hispanic, 7% as Asian, and 2% as other. Participants came from two sources the first source were students from an introductory to psychology course and psychology of human sexuality course. The second were visitors to the Hanover College psychological studies on the net webpage, and the IRB approved study share blog webpage. Both sites act as bulletin boards where visitors can browse a list of studies looking for participants. Once the visitors find studies in which they would like to participate they click on the link that will take them directly to the online based study. Students in the introductory course received credit towards partial fulfillment of a course requirement, while the students in the human sexuality course received extra credit. Those who participated though the Hanover College or IRB blog did not receive anything for their participation. The analysis was restricted to heterosexual participants.

One hundred and three participants were not in a romantic relationship, while 148 were in a romantic relationship. The mean length of those in a dating relationship was 30.28 months, ($SD = 42.19$). A median split was used to divide dating participants into short-term and long-term dating groups with 74 participants in each group. The median was dating for 18 months. There were 16 men and 31 women in the long-term group, 16

men and 54 women in the short-term group, and 46 men and 57 women in the hook up group.

Measures

The first measure was a list of 11 heterosexual activities from a larger list of 18 sexual activities designed by Garcia, Cavalie, Goins, and King (2008). Seven of the original items were excluded from the present study because the Garcia et al. (2008) study found that few participants had engaged in such acts. The measure also asked how many times each activity was performed, as well as with how many people within the previous year. See appendix A for full description of the 11 activities.

The second measure was a series of questions answered on a Likert type scale. One item asked participants how accurate they were in their presentation of their sexual experience to their partners. The question was, “How did you portray your level of experience in the activities listed in the previous questionnaire to your partner?” There was also an item that asked participants what they think their partner’s ideal partner level of sexual experience would be. This item was, “What level of sexual experience do you think your dating partner would like in an ideal partner?” There were also “yes” or “no” questions in this section. For example, “Has your current dating partner ever asked you about your experience with any of the activities from the previous list?” See appendix B for all the items used in the second measure.

To investigate the research question concerning openness about sexual history and relational satisfaction participants who were in a relationship were given an item from the Lock-Wallace Marital Adjustment Test (Lock-Wallace, 1959) to assess their global relational satisfaction. The participants were asked to indicate how happy they are with

their relationship on a 7-point semantic differential scale where 1 indicates “not very happy” and 7 indicates “perfectly happy.”

The final measure was an abbreviated version of the Bem Sex Role Inventory (Bem, 1974 - BSRI). This measure consists of 40 adjectives on which participants were asked to rate how true each adjective is of them on a scale of 1-7 where 1 indicates “never or almost never true” and 7 indicates “almost always true.” The abbreviated version of the BSRI did not include the social desirability traits because these traits were not of central concern to the present study.

Procedure

Students were solicited both through a posting on the psychology department’s online experiment scheduling system as well as a class announcement. Once they signed up for the experiment, students received the link to the online questionnaire. All participants could participate from any computer that had access to the internet. All versions of the questionnaire included a consent form, cover page with instructions, the measures, and a section asking for demographic information: age, gender, sexual orientation (heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual, unsure), and ethnicity (White, African American, Hispanic/Latino, Asian, Other). The instruction on the cover page stated the following:

In this study you will be asked to complete a series of questionnaires. The questions asked will be of a sexual nature. The study is completely anonymous, so please be as honest as possible. You can leave any question blank. You can terminate your participation at anytime without any penalties. To participate you

must be at least 18 years old, single (not married), and have engaged in some heterosexual activity in the last year.

The questionnaires were formatted for male or female participants as well as type of relationship. Male participants received a version of the heterosexual activities from a male's perspective and females from a female's perspective. For example, males received the activity "Petting woman's breast", female participants received this activity as "Having your breast petted." The difference between dating and non-dating participants questionnaire was that, where appropriate, the words "dating partner" or "hook up" were used. For example, dating participants received the following question "Prior to dating did you know about the level of sexual experience of your dating partner?" Non-dating participants received the same question worded as follows "Prior to hooking-up did you know something about the level of sexual experience of your partner?"

Results

Sixty-six percent of the sample answered that their partners asked them about their sexual history. When asked if they disclosed information about their sexual past to their partners 50% of the participants answered "yes". Additionally, participants being asked and disclosing their sexual history was positively correlated $r(182) = .31, p < .001$.

A one way ANOVA was used to investigate if there were any significant difference in the number of sexual partners the three groups report. A significant difference was found between the groups, $F(2, 157) = 3.35, p < .05$. A Tukey HSD test found that the only statistically significant pair-wise difference was between the hook up ($M = 2.56, SD = 3.01$) and the long term groups ($M = 1.28, SD = .67$).

A series of t-test were run to investigate any difference between men and women's reported number of sexual partners across the three groups in the last year. There were non-significant differences between men and women in all the groups. In the long-term group men's mean was 1.19 partners and women's mean was 1.32 partners. In the short-term group men's mean was 2.09 partners and women's mean was 1.89 partners. In the hook up group men's mean was 2.67 partners and women's mean was 2.47 partners. Another series of t-test were run to investigate any gender difference across the three groups in terms of experience with the 11 sexual activities in the last year. There were non-significant differences between men and women in all the groups. In the long-term group men's mean was 10.09 activities and women's mean was 9.33 activities. In the short-term group men's mean was 9.15 activities and women's mean was 8.98 activities. In the hook up group men's mean was 6.97 activities and women's mean was 7.42 activities.

Hypotheses

Hypothesis 1 predicted people in short and long-term dating relationships would be more likely than hook ups to discuss their sexual history with one another. A z-test for two proportions was used to test the hypothesis. Results partially support the first hypothesis. Seventy-one percent of short-term participants and 81% of long-term dating participants said they were asked by their partner about their sexual history. There was no significant difference between long-term and short-term couples in having been asked about their sexual history, $z = 1.24, p > .05$. Fifty percent of short-term and 55% of long-term dating participants said they disclosed information about their sexual information without being asked. There was no significant difference between long-term and short-

term couples in disclosing their sexual history to their partner, $z = 0.45, p > .05$. There was a significant difference between the hook up group (51%) and the long-term (81%) and short-term (71%) groups when it came to being asked about their sexual history. Fewer participants in the hook up group (51%) said that they were asked about their sexual history, $z = 3.94, p < .05$ and $z = 2.52, p < .05$, respectively. There was no significant difference between hook ups (43%) and long-term (55%) or short-term (50%) relationships when it came to disclosing their sexual history to their partner, $z = 1.42, p > .05$ and $z = .77, p > .05$, respectively. Additionally, when the data were broken down by gender only men in the long-term (80%) and hook up (38%) groups showed a significant difference when it came to being asked about their sexual history by their partners, $z = 2.01, p < .05$. See Table 1 for all the results.

The second hypothesis predicted a gender difference in what participants believed their partners expect of an ideal partner's sexual history. Specifically, it was predicted that men would believe their partners expect someone with a higher level of sexual experience whereas women believe their partners expect someone with a lower level of sexual experience.

A t-test revealed no statistically significant difference between what men and women believed their partners desire in an ideal partner's sexual experience. Both men and women suggested they believed their partners' ideal was someone with a similar level of sexual experience as their own.

An additional t-test was used to investigate if the level of sexual experience reported by men and women in the sample were statistically different from one another. Because the measure used the participants' own level of sexual experience as the

reference for what they believe is their partner's ideal, it is important to see if both genders were using similar levels of experience as their point of reference. A marginally significant gender difference was found for the average number of sexual partners reported by men and women, $t(177) = 1.92, p = .06$. Men reported having more sex partners ($M = 3.13$) than did women ($M = 1.99$). Though both genders reported they believed their partners' ideal partner would be someone with roughly their level of sexual experience, men report a higher number of sexual partners than women, though not more experience with sexual activities, lending partial support to the second hypothesis. To test the third hypothesis that predicted partners present their sexual history in accordance with what they believe the other expects, a Pearson correlation was used to compute a correlation between what participants thought their partners' ideal partner's experience was and how they presented their own experience. A significant positive correlation was found, $r(176) = .33, p < .001$, indicating that the way participants presented themselves was related to what they believed was their partner's ideal. Additionally, when the data was analyzed separately for men and women, both men and women showed a significant positive correlation between what they thought their partner's ideal was and how they presented themselves, $r(59) = .38, p < .05$, $r(115) = .29, p < .05$ respectively. Lastly, the data was split by relation groups. There was no significant correlation in the short-term group, $r(52) = .20, p > .05$. Both the long-term group and hook up group showed significant positive correlations, $r(30) = .53, p < .01$, $r(77) = .36, p < .01$ respectively.

The data on how participants presented themselves to their partners was split along the three groups. Seventy-seven percent of the long-term participants reported presenting accurate information about their sexual history to their partners. Seven percent

said they exaggerated their sexual experience and 17% said they decreased their sexual history. Sixty-five percent of short-term participants said they presented their sexual history accurately to their partners. Eighteen said they exaggerated their sexual history and 18% said they decreased their sexual history. Lastly, 56% of the hook up group said they presented accurate information about their sexual history to their partners. Nineteen said they exaggerated their sexual history and 25% said they decreased their sexual history.

Secondary research questions

A chi square analysis was used to investigate the research question concerning gender difference in disclosing and being asked about their sexual history. When considering the entire sample, there was a significant gender difference, $\chi^2(1, 184) = 8.08$, $p < .05$. Women were more likely (73%), than men (52%) to be asked by their partner about their sexual history. There was also a significant gender difference in disclosing sexual history without being first asked, $\chi^2(1, N = 184) = 12.58$, $p < .05$. Again, women (60%) were more likely to disclose information about their sexual history without being asked, than men (32%). When these gender differences were analyzed across the different relational groups, the only significant difference found was in the hook up group. In this group, more women (62%) reported being asked about their sexual history than did men (38%), $\chi^2(1, N = 82) = 4.83$, $p < .05$.

The second research question dealt with differences in how the long-term, short-term, and hook up groups learned of their partner's sexual history. No significant differences were found when investigating how the different relational groups learned of their partners' sexual history.

The third research question was, did participants know something about his/her partners' sexual past prior to their relationship? Fifty-eight percent of the participants said they did know something about their partners' sexual past. When asked how they knew, 64% said they learned through conversations with their partners, 10% said they knew their partners prior to becoming romantically involved with them, 9% learned through rumors, and 7% knew through assumptions they made. When the data was split by gender 55% of men said they knew their partners' sexual past. Fifty percent knew through conversation with their partner, 20% knew through rumors, and 13% knew their partners prior to becoming romantically involved with them. Sixty percent of women said they knew something about their partners' sexual past. Seventy percent said they knew through conversation with their partners, 4% said they knew through rumors, 11% said they knew through assumptions they made, 9% said they knew their partner prior to becoming romantically involved with them.

A z-test for two proportions was used to investigate if there was any significant difference between those who knew and did not know something about their partners' sexual past in terms of their partners' asking them about their sexual history and their disclosure. Non-significant results were found for both being asked and disclosing their sexual history, $z = 1.62, p > .05$, $z = 1.50, p > .05$ respectively.

The fourth question concerned a connection between relational satisfaction and openness in the relationship. Results of a Pearson correlation suggest no connection between these two variables. There were no significant correlations between satisfaction and disclosure of sexual history, $r(99) = .08, p > .05$, and satisfaction and partners asking about their sexual history, $r(99) = -.02, p > .05$.

The last research question concerned the connection between levels of masculinity and femininity, and how people present themselves to their partners. Masculinity and femininity were not significantly related to how participants portrayed themselves to their partners, $r(161) = -.15, p > .05$, and, $r(161) = -.13, p > .05$ respectively.

Discussion

In this study I sought to investigate how heterosexual individuals in dating relationships and in hook ups talk about their sexual history. Specifically, I sought to investigate if heterosexuals in long-term dating, short-term dating, and hook up relationships discuss their sexual history with each other. Do any of these groups disclose more or less than the others? What do participants believe their partner expects in an ideal partner's level of sexual experience? Do participants present their sexual experience similarly to what they believe is their partners' expectations?

There were also secondary research questions for which there were no hypotheses. The first was concerned with any difference between the three relational types and how they learned of their partners' sexual history. The second was concerned with gender differences in disclosure of sexual history. The third asked if participants knew about their partners' sexual history prior to their relationship. The fourth asked if there was a connection between disclosure of sexual history and relational satisfaction. Lastly, did levels of masculinity and femininity correlate with how participants presented themselves to their partners?

The first hypothesis predicted that participants in short-term and long-term relationships would be more likely to discuss their sexual past with their partners than those in the hook up group. Results partially support the hypothesis and they are

consistent with previous research suggesting that dating partners may discuss their sexual history with one another (Consedine et al., 2007; Marelich et al., 2008; Sprecher et al., 2008). The majority of those in short-term and long-term relationships reported being asked about their sexual history by their partner. Results from the hook up group suggest that they do not disclose to each other as much. This may be because they may have just met and do not intend on continuing a relationship with their hook up as prior research suggests (Glenn & Marquardt, 2001; Lambert et al., 2003; Paul et al., 2000). Close to half of the hook up sample reported their partner did not ask them about their sexual history. While this may not be very low, taken in the context of a comparison with the other two groups there is a significant difference between the short-term and long-term dating group, and hook ups who only want the person for one night.

Interestingly, across all three groups, less than half of the participants reported disclosing their sexual history to their partner without their partner asking for it first. One reason for this might be that relationships might have an underlying “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy. Perhaps sexual history is a difficult or uncomfortable topic to talk about (see Byers & Demmons, 1999) and unless it is something that is explicitly asked for people rather avoid it. As can be seen in the data there was a general trend of more disclosure the longer the couple was together, though this was non-significant.

It may be as Garcia (2006) suggests, people who are dating may be evaluating each other as potential mates. If this is the case, then disclosing their sexual history without being asked for it may be seen as a way of “laying all their cards on the table” and seeing if their partner is still interested in pursuing a relationship with them. It may also be seen as a way to increase “intimacy” by increasing the level of self-disclosure in

the relationship. Hook ups on the other hand, may attempt to avoid disclosing such information as a way to maximize their chances of hooking up that night. Disclosure of sexual information is typically accompanied by anxiety and broaching this subject with someone they have just met makes it particularly difficult.

Additionally, women were more likely than men to answer “yes” to items related to disclosure within the relationship suggesting women were overall more open than men in discussing information about their sexual history with their partners. Women’s willingness to be open about their sexual history with the men they are involved with is in line with previous findings (Byers & Demmons, 1999). It could be, as Milhausen and Herold (1999) suggested, that the sexual double standard might be loosening, though this is only the case if women are disclosing past sexual activities and not that they are virgins. However, disclosure of virginity may not be a problem in the current study since a key requirement for the study was to have been sexually active in the last year.

Results of the chi square analysis suggest that women in the sample were more likely to be in relationships that openly communicated about their sexual history. It should be noted that couples were not used in the study – It could be that women in the sample were not really in a relationship that communicates openly about their sexual history. Their partners may not feel much disclosure occurs in the relationship. In the future it may be wise to sample couples to see how open both members of the couple feel the relationship is.

From a sexual health perspective, these finding suggest that disclosure is less than ideal. As previous research has suggested, people who discuss general sexual topics are also more likely to use condoms (Widman et al., 2006). It may be the case that

participants in the current study who did not discuss their sexual history with their partner were also less likely to use contraceptives and therefore at risk of contracting an STD. Additionally, much like the use of condoms may be seen as threatening to the identities of the parties, implying that one of the partners may have an STD, it may also be identity threatening to ask a partner about their sexual history (Afifi, 1999). Some participants in the current study may have not asked their partners about their sexual history to help them save face as well as to not have the same asked of them. This finding also has implications for sexual health in that individuals who are relative strangers, and who hook up primarily for the purpose of engaging in sex, are probably the ones least likely to care about transmitting a sexually transmitted disease to someone, and also, as was found, the ones with a relatively high level of sexual partners.

That the hook up group showed an almost 50/50 chance of discussing their sexual history with their partner may make more sense from an impression management perspective. Hook ups may not want to ask about their sexual history because it may imply that they are concerned that the person has an STD. This implication, be it real or imagined, may also damage their chances of reaching their goal of hooking up because the person may be offended. Ultimately, all participants who choose to not engage in a discussion about their history are taking a risk of contracting an STD.

The second hypothesis predicted a gender difference in what participants believed their partners desired in ideal partners. It was predicted men would believe their partners would like someone with a higher level of sexual experience and women would believe their partners would like someone with a lower level of sexual experience. Upon initial inspection, the results did not seem to support the hypothesis. Men and women believed

their partners' ideal was someone close to their own sexual experience. However, when the sample's number of sexual partners and experience with sexual activities was analyzed, men reported a marginally significantly higher number of sexual partners than did women. This suggests that though men and women said their partners would like someone with a similar level of sexual experience as theirs, men were using a higher number of sexual partners as a frame of reference than the women. Thus, it was in general support of the hypothesis. Men suggested their partners' ideal was someone with a higher level of sexual experience – the level of experience men self reported. Women suggested their partners' ideal was someone with a lower level of sexual experience – the level of experience women self reported.

The findings from the second hypothesis testing could be viewed from a sexual double standards perspective. Both men and women understand what is expected in their level of sexual experience (Byers, 1996; Reiss, 1956). The gender difference in self reported number of sexual partners in the present study could be viewed as participants presenting accurate numbers or as participants adjusting their answers to questions of their sexual experience to be more in line with what is socially acceptable for their gender. Findings in recent research have suggested that when self reporting to researchers, men and women change their answer about how many sexual partners they have had (Alexander & Fisher, 2003). Researchers tested the impact of three conditions on participants' self reported number of sexual partners. The conditions were a bogus pipeline condition, an anonymous condition, and an exposure threat condition. In the anonymous condition standard research protocol was used to offer subjects' anonymity. The exposure threat condition led subjects to believe their answers were going to be read

immediately after they were finished filling out their questionnaire. Their findings, though they were statistically non-significant, suggested that men's answers on questionnaires did not change much across the three conditions. However, women's answers did change from condition to condition. When women were most in danger of being caught lying, their number of reported sexual partners went up. This could very well be the cause in the current research - women could be suppressing their numbers, thus causing a gender difference.

However, as can be seen from the current study's findings, both genders presented themselves as having roughly similar experience as each other with sexual activities, something contrary to the sexual double standard. Again, it could be, as Milhausen and Herold (1999) suggested, the double standards are loosening.

The third hypothesis stated that participants would present their sexual experience in accordance with what they believe their partners desired. Results supported the hypothesis. Participants did present their experience in accordance with what they believed their partners desired. Interestingly, participants believed their partners' ideal was someone with a similar level of sexual experience as themselves.

It would make sense if participants believe their partners' ideal is their current level of experience that they would present themselves as such. Additionally, given the findings of previous research suggesting people would like to and do match up on level of sexual experience, there is no reason to lie (Garcia & Markey, 2007; Milhausen & Herold, 1999). As the rest of the research suggests, about half of all participants do not talk with their partners about their sexual experience. Those who do talk about their sexual experience would seem to have a relationship that is more open to communicating

than those who do not. However, as results suggest, this openness is not significantly correlated with relational satisfaction for those in short and long-term relationships. This lack of significant correlating could be due to the use of a single-item measure in the current study. Perhaps more reliable and valid measurements could have been found with a multi-item measure.

An alternate interpretation is not that participants believe their partners' ideal is their level of sexual experience, but that they present themselves in a way that they believe is ideal to their partners. This interpretation of the data can be viewed from an impression management point of view. Prior research has suggested that people will lie to their partner about different personal information including sexual history (Boon & McLeod, 2001; Gibbs et al., 2006; Rowatt et al., 1999; Marelich et al., 2008).

Slightly more than half of participants knew something about their partners' sexual history. This did not differ significantly between the hook up, short-term, and long-term dating groups. Most participants said they learned of their partners' sexual experience through conversation with their partners. It is difficult to say if the information that participants received from their partners is truthful or not. Prior research suggests that some people will lie about their sexual history to their partners (Marelich et al., 2008).

Lastly, there was no significant correlation between masculinity, femininity, and how participants portrayed themselves to their partners. One possibility could be that masculinity and femininity are irrelevant to disclosure. It may also be that a different measure of masculinity and femininity is needed. The BSRI is a measure developed in 1974 and has not been updated to reflect possible changes in how the culture views the

traits associated with masculinity and femininity. In hindsight, a more recent measure should have been used.

Limitations

The current research has all the limitations associated with survey research. Participants could have lied about any number of things for any number of reasons. Hopefully, the promise of anonymity was enough to deter or minimize such dishonesty. Another limitation is that the sample was limited to psychology students and people with interest in websites dealing with psychological research, most likely professors, researchers, and college students, thus limiting how much the findings may be generalized to the general population. Additionally, it was impossible to control the environment participants were in when answering the online questionnaire. Participants may have been distracted by things in their environment. However, this effect may be no more harmful to the data or distracting to the participants than running a group of students in an experimental session on a college campus.

A limitation of the current study is the lack of a question whether participants disclosed their sexual history after being asked about it by their partner. It may be that some participants did not disclose and others did. It would have been interesting to see if some participants disclosed their sexual history, only to provide additional information after being asked by their partner.

Another limitation of the study is the comparison of disclosing and being asked for sexual history across the three groups. Though the data show a trend of more disclosure as the relationship goes on there is more time for this disclosure to happen. It may be that participants in the long-term relationship did not have this conversation the

first night they met or the first night they had sexual intercourse. If this is the case than it may be that hook ups share more information about their sexual history on the first night than do the relationships that go on longer. However, the longer a relationship goes on the harder it may be to remember when such a discussion occurred.

Implications

Besides furthering the scope of information the field has, the current research has implications for our understanding of communication within relationships as well as sexual health. Long term and short term relationships are different from hook-ups in how much sexual history is discussed. Additionally, there are gender differences with women being more open than men. It would seem different types of relationships have different scripts associated with them. While these scripts may make sense from a social and relational perspective, from a sexual health perspective some of them do not. Individuals in hook-ups share little information about their sexual history when compared with long-term and short-term relationships. For sexual health reasons, it would make sense for them to share just as much if not more information about their sexual history since they may engage in sexual intercourse with someone they may not know much about. Equally as worrisome is that men in the sample reported being less open about their sexual history than the women in the sample reported. If these men are an indication of how open men in the general public are, then women may not know what risk they are taking when becoming sexual involved with men.

Future direction

Future research should consider asking similar question of couples instead of half of a couple as a way of verifying answers and also expanding the questions that can be

asked. Also, it would be interesting to see how married people answer the same questions. It would undoubtedly open analysis of generational differences as well as relational differences.

It may also be interesting to see if any of the current findings can be found in a sample of homosexuals, an understudied population. It may also be more relevant from a sexual health standpoint because of greater chance of contracting STD's. Making an attempt to study racial and ethnic differences would also be of great benefit because it is plausible, and even likely, that race and ethnicity play a significant role in sexual self-disclosure.

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Table 1

Percent of participants who said they were asked about their sexual history/ disclosed their sexual history.

	Asked	Disclosed
Long-term	81% _A	55% _A
Short-term	71% _A	50% _A
Hook up	51% _B	43% _{AB}
Total sample	66%	50%

Note. Percentages with at least one common subscript are not statistically different at $p < .05$

Appendix A

Heterosexual activities

Activities	Yes/No	Number of times activity was performed	Number of partners activity was performed with
Kissing			
Petting woman's breast/ having your breast petted			
Manual stimulation of genitals by partner			
Receiving fellatio/ Performing fellatio			
Performing cunnilingus/ Receiving cunnilingus			
Mutual oral genital stimulation			
Man on top vaginal intercourse			
Female on top vaginal intercourse			
Rear entry vaginal intercourse			
Laying on side vaginal intercourse			
Anal intercourse			

Appendix B

Questionnaire 2

Questionnaire for dating male

1. Has your current dating partner ever asked you about your experience with any of the activities from the previous list? (Please check one)

Yes

No

2. Did you disclose information about your sexual experience with your partner without her asking first?

Yes

No

3. Prior to dating did you know about the level of sexual experience of your dating partner?

Yes

No

4. How did you know about her level of sexual experience?

5. How did you portray your level of experience in the activities listed in the previous questionnaire? (Please check one)

Much more experienced than I actually am

Somewhat more experienced than I actually am

Accurate amount of experience

Somewhat less experienced than I actually am

___ Much less experienced than I actually am

6. What level of sexual experience do you think your dating partner would like in an ideal partner?

___ She would like someone with a level of sexual experience much higher than mine

___ She would like someone with a level of sexual experience somewhat higher than mine

___ She would like someone with the same level of sexual experience as me

___ She would like someone with a level of sexual experience somewhat less than mine ___ She would like someone with a level of sexual experience much lower than mine

7. Please indicate your degree of happiness with your relationship on the scale below by circling the answer that best represents how you feel.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Not very happy			Neither unhappy or happy			Perfectly happy

Questionnaire for dating female

1. Has your current dating partner ever asked you about your experience in any of the above listed activities? (Please check one)

Yes

No

2. Did you disclose information about your sexual experience with your partner without him asking first?

Yes

No

3. Prior to dating did you know something about the level of sexual experience of your dating partner?

Yes

No

4. How did you know about his level of sexual experience?

5. How did you portray your level of experience in the activities listed in the previous questionnaire? (Please check one)

Much more experienced than I actually am

Somewhat more experienced than I actually am

Accurate amount of experience

Somewhat less experienced than I actually am

Much less experienced than I actually am

6. What level of sexual experience do you think your significant other would like in an ideal partner?

___ He would like someone with a level of sexual experience much higher than mine

___ He would like someone with a level of sexual experience somewhat higher than mine

___ He would like someone with the same level of sexual experience as me

___ He would like someone with a level of sexual experience somewhat less than mine ___ He would like someone with a level of sexual experience much lower than mine

7. Please indicate your degree of happiness with your relationship on the scale below by circling the answer that best represents how you feel.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Not very happy			Neither unhappy or happy			Perfectly happy

Questionnaire for non-dating male

1. Have any of your hook-ups ever asked you about your experience in any of the above listed activities? (Please check one)
 Yes
 No
2. Did you disclose information about your sexual experience with your partner without her asking first?
 Yes
 No
3. Prior to hooking-up did you know something about the level of sexual experience of your partner?
 Yes
 No
4. How did you know about her level of sexual experience?

5. How did you portray your level of experience in the activities listed in the previous questionnaire? (Please check one)
 Much more experienced than I actually am
 Somewhat more experienced than I actually am
 Accurate amount of experience
 Somewhat less experienced than I actually am
 Much less experienced than I actually am

6. What level of sexual experience do you think your hook-ups would like in an ideal partner?

___ They would like someone with a level of sexual experience much higher than mine

___ They would like someone with a level of sexual experience somewhat higher than mine

___ They would like someone with the same level of sexual experience as me

___ They would like someone with a level of sexual experience somewhat less

than mine ___ They would like someone with a level of sexual experience much lower than mine

Questionnaire for non-dating female

1. Have any of your hook-ups ever asked you about your experience in any of the above listed activities? (Please check one)
 Yes
 No
2. Did you disclose information about your sexual experience with your partner without him asking first?
 Yes
 No
3. Prior to hooking-up did you know something about the level of sexual experience of your partner?
 Yes
 No
4. How did you know about his level of sexual experience?

5. How did you portray your level of experience in the activities listed in the previous questionnaire? (Please check one)
 Much more experienced than I actually am
 Somewhat more experienced than I actually am
 Accurate amount of experience
 Somewhat less experienced than I actually am
 Much less experienced than I actually am

6. What level of sexual experience do you think your hook-ups would like in an ideal partner?

___ He would like someone with a level of sexual experience much higher than mine

___ He would like someone with a level of sexual experience somewhat higher than mine

___ He would like someone with the same level of sexual experience as me

___ He would like someone with a level of sexual experience somewhat less than mine ___ He would like someone with a level of sexual experience much lower than mine