

How changes in individual relationship status effects personal preferences in potential partners

ABSTRACT

- According to the relevant research on marriage, the leading variable associate with divorce in the United States is experiencing financial difficulty. The question guiding this research assess whether individual perception of attractiveness compared to individual perception on wealth changes according to a person's legal relationship status?

HYPOTHESIS

- My hypothesis will conclude that physical attractiveness will be rated higher to individuals who have not been married. Therefore, individuals who have been married, divorce, or remarried will prioritize occupations more than physical attractiveness.

METHODS

- The method to conducting the research is by selecting people to rank pictures of random individuals by appeal.
- There will be two surveys with one having random individuals with an occupation and another with just random individuals.
- First, I will flip a coin to see which survey they will receive.
- The pictures will then be ranked on physical attractiveness
- The only questioned asked to the participant is there legal relationship status.

METHODS

Picture Analysis



Pictures Rank By Attractiveness

| | | | | | | | |
|-------|--|------|--|-------|--|-------|--|
| 1.14 | | 6.33 | | 10.33 | | 2.5 | |
| 6.66 | | 7.5 | | 5.43 | | 10.33 | |
| 13.16 | | 6 | | 13.5 | | 11.5 | |
| 16.29 | | 13 | | 14 | | 13.33 | |
| 13.5 | | 9 | | | | | |

Survey Instrument

| | | | | | | | |
|--|------|--|------|-------------------------------------|------|----------------------------|------|
| | Rank | | Rank | | Rank | | Rank |
| | — | | — | Occupation Elementary Teacher | — | Occupation Physician | — |
| | Rank | | Rank | | Rank | | Rank |
| | — | | — | Occupation Funeral Director | — | | — |
| | Rank | | Rank | | Rank | | Rank |
| | — | | — | Occupation Bartender | — | Occupation Veterinarian | — |

RESULTS

| Hypothesis Ranking | Divorced N=4 | Married N=5 | Single N=9 | Hypothesis Ranking | Divorced N=6 | Married N=7 | Single N=12 |
|--------------------|--------------|-------------|------------|------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 4.75 | 4.6 | 4.8 | Occupation: Physician | 4.6 | 4.7 | 1.6 |
| | 4.25 | 4.4 | 4 | Occupation: Elementary Teacher | 4.3 | 4.2 | 4.0 |
| | 3 | 2.8 | 3 | Occupation: Veterinarian | 2.8 | 2.7 | 1.8 |
| | 1.75 | 1.8 | 1.8 | Occupation: Funeral Director | 1.8 | 2 | 3.08 |
| | 1.25 | 1.4 | 1.2 | Occupation: Bartender | 1.3 | 1.3 | 4.8 |

CONCLUSIONS

- My Hypothesis was supported.
- When it came to singles, occupation did not really matter in changing ranks of attractiveness. However, singles did elevate the teacher. Singles did not look at finance but at what is familiar to them.
- Future research: with the factors of age, race, and background experience being taken into account to see if the results will change.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Rogers, Richard G. "Marriage, Sex, and Mortality." *Journal of Marriage & Family*, vol. 57, no. 2, May 1995, pp. 515-526. EBSCOhost, search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=26h&AN=9506203992&site=ehost-live.
- Heaton, Tim B. and Stan L. Albrecht. "Stable Unhappy Marriages." *Journal of Marriage & Family*, vol. 53, no. 3, Aug. 1991, pp. 747-758. EBSCOhost, search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=26h&AN=9110070203&site=ehost-live.
- Kapinus, Carolyn A. and Daniel R. Flowers. "An Examination of Gender Differences in Attitudes toward Divorce." *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, vol. 49, no. 3/4, Aug. 2008, pp. 239-257. EBSCOhost, search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=35272469&site=ehost-live.
- Lichter, Daniel T. 2007. "Family Structure and Poverty." Pp. 1463-1465 in *The Backwell Encyclopedia of Sociology*, edited by G. Ritzer. Malden, MA: Backwell.