

Chapman University

Chapman University Digital Commons

Student Scholar Symposium Abstracts and Posters

Center for Undergraduate Excellence

Spring 5-3-2023

Engagement in Diverse Sexual Behaviors and Desire for Different Types of Relationships Among Single Heterosexual People when COVID-19 Vaccines were First Available

Manya Dhupar

Chapman University, mdhupar@chapman.edu

Emily Foster

Chapman University, efoster@chapman.edu

Amy Moors

Chapman University, moors@chapman.edu

Amanda Gesselman

Indiana University

Justin Garcia

Indiana University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.chapman.edu/cusrd_abstracts



Part of the [Gender and Sexuality Commons](#), [Health Psychology Commons](#), [Other Psychology Commons](#), [Personality and Social Contexts Commons](#), and the [Social Psychology Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Dhupar, Manya; Foster, Emily; Moors, Amy; Gesselman, Amanda; and Garcia, Justin, "Engagement in Diverse Sexual Behaviors and Desire for Different Types of Relationships Among Single Heterosexual People when COVID-19 Vaccines were First Available" (2023). *Student Scholar Symposium Abstracts and Posters*. 596.

https://digitalcommons.chapman.edu/cusrd_abstracts/596

This Poster is brought to you for free and open access by the Center for Undergraduate Excellence at Chapman University Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Student Scholar Symposium Abstracts and Posters by an authorized administrator of Chapman University Digital Commons. For more information, please contact laughtin@chapman.edu.

Engagement in Diverse Sexual Behaviors and Desire for Different Types of Relationships Among Single Heterosexual People when COVID-19 Vaccines were First Available



Manya Dhupar, Emily Foster, and Amy Moors, PhD, Chapman University
Amanda Gesselman, PhD, and Justin Garcia, PhD, Indiana University



Introduction

Decades of research have found a consistent gender difference in sexuality: heterosexual men desire casual relationships, and heterosexual women desire monogamous relationships (Petersen & Hyde, 2010; Moors et al., 2013). Related, ample research also shows that men are more likely to engage in sexually risky behaviors than women (Poppen, 1995).

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, people had more time to reevaluate their personal lives. Studies suggest that there has been a decrease in interest in monogamy (Masterson et al., under review) and an increase in exploration of sexual activities, such as sexting (Lehmiller et al., 2021).

In the present study, we examined single heterosexual people's desire for different types of relationships and engagement in diverse sexual acts following the availability of the vaccine. Hypotheses included:

- Contrary to previous research, we expect that there would be minimal to no gender differences in the desire for casual and non-monogamous relationships. Related, we anticipate that there will be minimal or no gender differences in the engagement in diverse sexual behaviors

Methods

We used nationally representative data of single people in the U.S., collected by the Kinsey Institute's *Singles in America 2021* project, the time period after vaccines became widely available (data collected during June-July 2021).

2,151 participants, with $M_{age} = 42.76$

46.8% heterosexual men and 53.2% heterosexual women

We conducted a series of comparisons (chi-square analyses) by gender for "desire for types of relationship" and "engagement in diverse sexual acts."

Results & Discussion

Heterosexual men were more likely to report a desire for casual and CNM relationships and less likely to desire monogamous relationships than heterosexual women. Although this was inconsistent with our hypotheses, the differences desire for casual and CNM relationships were small, however, the difference in desire for monogamous relationships was medium-large.

Findings highlight the decrease in expected gender differences in desires of relationships and sexual behaviors.

These findings are important for social psychologists, sex therapists, and individuals pursuing romantic and sexual relationships to understand current trends and diversity in desired relationship types

Desire for Diverse Sexual Relationships

"Which of the following types of sexual relationships do you want?"

Casual Sex or Relationships

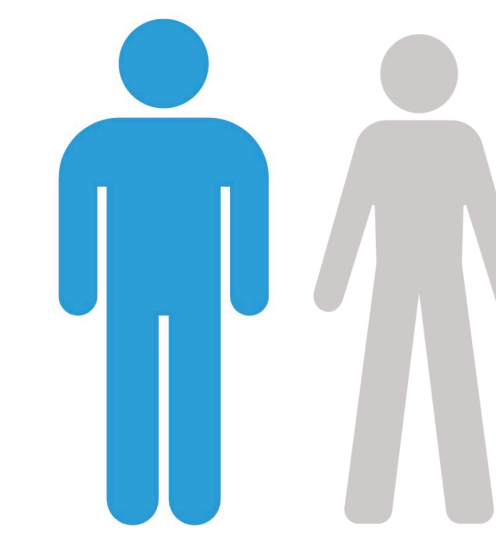


1 in 3 Men (34.3%)

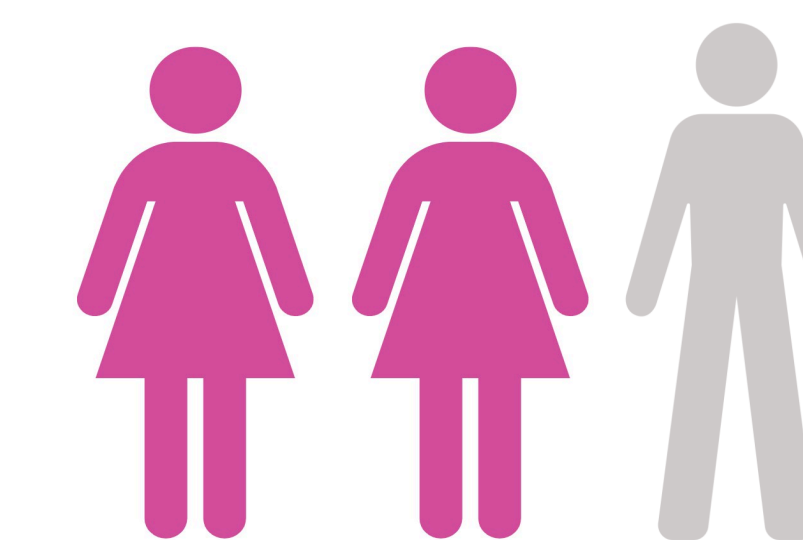


1 in 4 Women (23.5%)

Monogamous or Exclusive Relationships

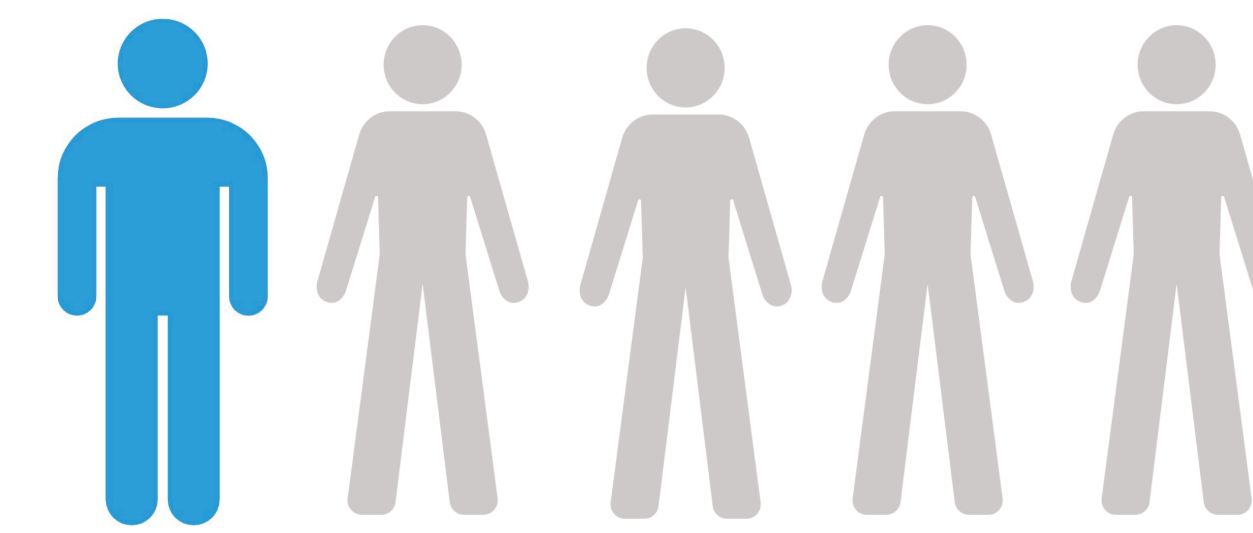


1 in 2 Men (43.7%)

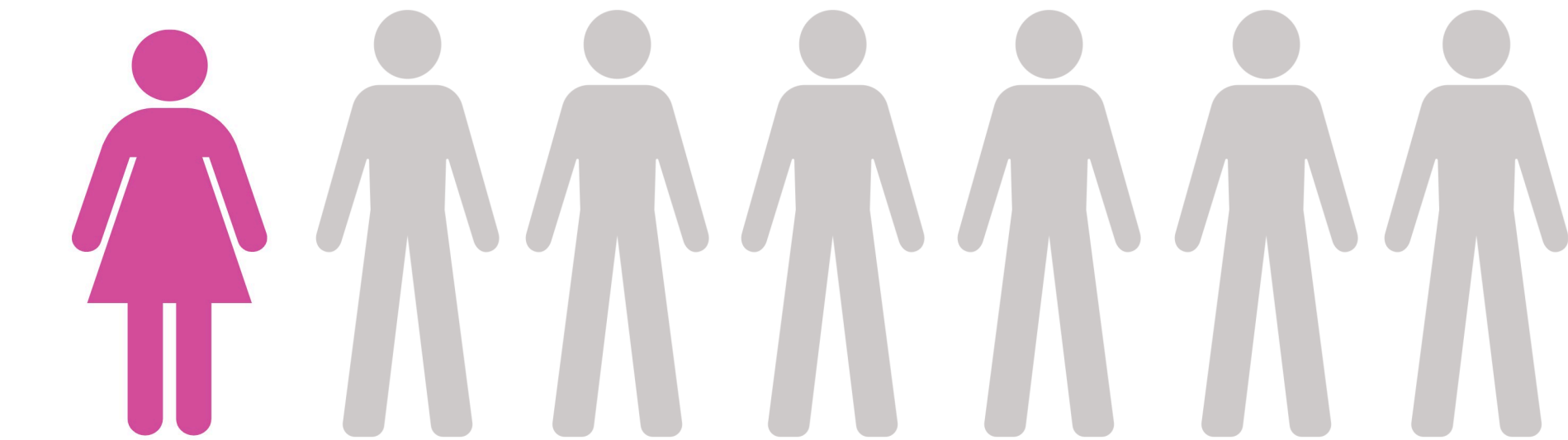


2 in 3 Women (62.4%)

Consensually Non-Monogamous Relationship



1 in 5 Men (22%)



1 in 7 Women (14.1%)

Engagement in Diverse Sexual Behaviors



18.1% of people engaged in internet based sexual activity. Men engaged in this activity significantly more than women.



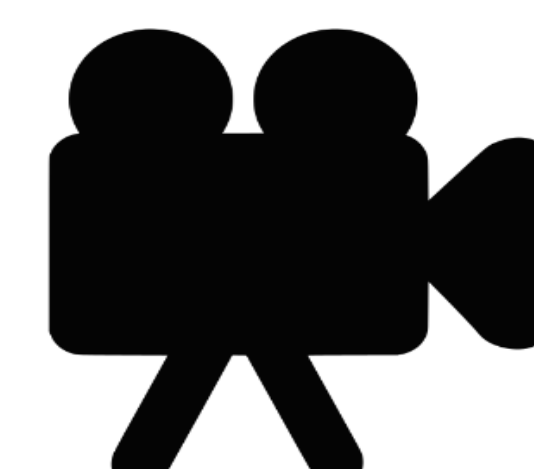
7.2% of people had sex in a public place. Men and women engaged in this activity at the same frequency.



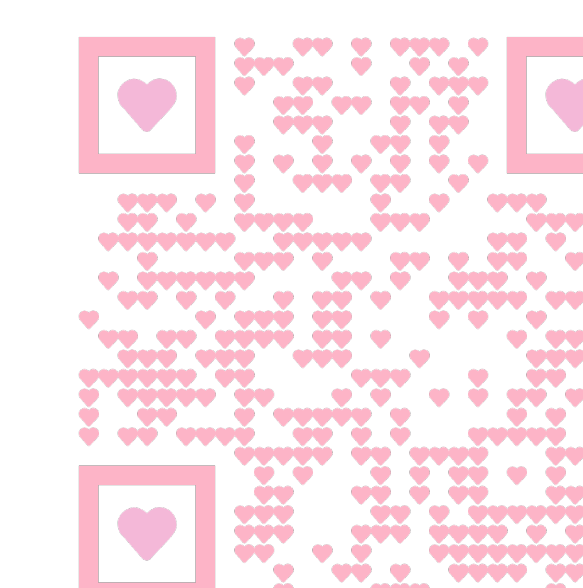
10.9% of people engaged in phone sex. Men and women engaged in this activity at the same frequency.



5.1% of people had a sexual affair. Men and women engaged in this activity at the same frequency.



6.2% of people filmed themselves having sex. Men and women engaged in this activity at the same frequency.



Take a picture to download the abstract and find more information