

**Section on a specific subject from:**

# **DATABOOK OF HAPPINESS**

A complementary reference work to  
***Conditions of Happiness***

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D.Reidel Publishing Company  
Member of Kluwer Academic Publishers Group  
1984  
Dordrecht/Boston/Lancaster

ISBN 90-277-1793-1

# M 2 MARRIAGE

- M 2.1 Being married . . . . . see M 1.1
- M 2.2 Attitude towards marriage . . . . . see also S 1.7.2
- M 2.3 Characteristics of the spouse
- M 2.4 Characteristics of the relationship . . . . . see also S 1.7.2
- M 2.5 Various factors concerning marriage

## M 2.1 - BEING MARRIED

see 'Marital Status - Married' (M 1.1)

## M 2.2 - ATTITUDES TOWARDS MARRIAGE

see also 'Satisfaction with Marriage' (S 1.7.2)

### POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS MARRIAGE

Closed question: 'In general, which do you think is happier - married people or single people?'  
single / no difference / married

HAPP 1.1

G'

+ .32

Gt'

01

National population, U.S.A.  
Non-probability quota sample  
N: 2377, date: February, 1946

WESSM 56  
p. 191

### THINKING OFTEN ABOUT MARRIAGE

Closed question: not at all / sometimes / often,  
during last week

HAPP 1.1

G'

-

Gt'

Inhabitants of 4 small communities, Illinois, U.S.A.  
Probability multi-stage samples  
N: 2006, date: March, 1962

BRADB 65/1  
p. 54

Gammas computed on the basis of proportion 'often' answers

Unaffected by S.E.S.  
high S.E.S.: G' = -.07 (ns)  
low S.E.S.: G' = -.03 (ns)

### EXPECTED SATISFACTION IF MARRIED

Closed question rated on a 5-point scale

HAPP 2.1

r<sub>pm</sub>

Chi<sup>2</sup>

Adults, Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
Probability systematic random sample stratified by sex and marital status  
N: 600, date: September - December, 1965

JONG 69  
p. 193

Computed for singles only  
males : r = +.06 (ns)  
females: r = -.08 (ns)

## M 2.3 - CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SPOUSE

### BEING A WIFE OF A SKILLED WORKER

Being a wife of an unskilled / a semi-skilled / a skilled worker

HAPP 1.1

G'

+ .26

Gt'

01

Non-institutionalized adults, U.S.A.  
Probability multi-stage area sample  
N: 2460, date: spring, 1957

GURIN 60  
p. 223

Computed for presently married females only

### EMPLOYED STATUS OF SPOUSE

Ss with unemployed vs employed spouse

AFF 2.3

DR

+ .01

BCI

ns

Adults, urban areas, U.S.A.  
Probability area samples  
N: 2787, date: January, 1963 - January, 1964

BRADB 69  
p. 187

Computed for married respondents only  
Lower among males : DR = +.04 (ns)  
Stronger among females : DR = +.10 (05)  
Index of Positive Affects : DR = +.06 (05)  
Stronger among females : DR = +.19 (05)  
Lower among males : DR = +.04 (ns)  
Index of Negative Affects : DR = +.06 (05)  
Unaffected by sex: males : DR = .00 (ns)  
females: DR = +.02 (ns)

For further elaborations see 'Having Work' (W 2.1, Part III).

WIFE OF UNEMPLOYED CHIEF WAGE EARNER	Wife of employed vs unemployed chief wage earner	This analysis concerns only women who are not chief wage earners. Index of Positive Affects: $\bar{DR} = -.19$ (05) Index of Negative Affects: $DR = -.02$ (ns)	AFF 2.3	$\bar{DR}$	-.10	BCI	05	Adults, urban areas, U.S.A. (See last page)	BRADB 69 p. 184/186
SOCIAL STRATUM OF HUSBAND	Lower vs upper strata	Computed for married females only Gammas based on proportion 'very satisfied' answers Stronger among employed females: $G' = -.31$ (ns) Lower among unemployed females: $G' = -.20$ (ns)	HAPP 1.1 HAPP 2.1	G G'	-.32 -	Gt'	ns	Inhabitants of Helsinki, Finland Probability sample N: 442, date: spring - summer, 1966	HAAVI 71 p. 595
INCOME	Husband's income rated on a 3-point scale		HAPP 1.1	$r_{pm}$	+.21			Housewives, The Netherlands Probability area sample N: 450, date: autumn, 1964	PHILI 66 p. 66
BEING YOUNGER THAN SPOUSE	Same age or older vs younger	35% of the relatively dissatisfied, 27% of the satisfied and 17% of the very satisfied were the same age as their husband or older (sign.). No relationship among men	HAPP 2.1	D%	+	s		Middle-aged, middle class married couples, U.S.A. Non-probability accidental sample of couples N: 416, date: 1952 - 1953	ROSE 55 p. 16
LIFE SATISFACTION OF SPOUSE	Closed question rated on a 5-point scale (see instrument in excerpt, Part II).	65% of the men, whose wives said they were very satisfied with their lives, also said they were satisfied, whereas this was only true for 15% of the men whose wives were relatively dissatisfied.	HAPP 2.1	D%	+	s		See above	ROSE 55 p. 16

M 2.4 - CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RELATIONSHIP

see also 'Satisfaction with Marriage'  
(S 1.7.2)

FEELINGS OF MARITAL INADEQUACY	Closed question of frequency of feeling not as good a husband/wife as one would like to be never / once in a while / a lot of times	Stronger among males: $t_k = -.15$ (01) Not among females: $t_k = +.01$ (ns)	HAPP 1.1	$t_k$	-			Adult married population with children, U.S.A. Probability area sample N: 797, date: —	VEROF 62 p. 196
PROBLEMS IN MARRIAGE (in the past)	Open-ended question on problems getting along with each other S never had problems vs mentions problems	Stronger among females: $t_k = -.24$ (01) Lower among males: $t_k = -.14$ (01)	HAPP 1.1	$t_k$	-		01	See above	VEROF 62 p. 196
MARITAL TENSION	13-item index of closed questions on marital problems concerning time spent with friends, how the house looks, household expenses, being tired, being away from home too much, disciplining children, in-laws, not showing love, work, how to spend leisure time, work around the house, religion, irritating personal habits, other	Index of Positive Affects: $G' = +.04$ (ns) Index of Negative Affects: $G' = +.43$ (01)	HAPP 1.1 AFF 2.3	G' G'	-.22 -	Gt' Gt'	01	Males in the age of 25-49, 4 small communities, Illinois, U.S.A. Probability multi-stage samples N: 393, date: March, 1962	BRADB 65/1 p. 37
MARITAL TENSION	11-item index of yes/no questions on differences in opinion or problems concerning time spent with friends, household expenses, being tired, being away from home too much, disciplining children, in-laws, not showing love, your (husband's) job, how to spend leisure time, religion, irritating personal habits	Stronger among females: $G = -.32$ Lower among males: $G = -.16$ Index of Positive Affects: Stronger among males: $G = +.10$ Not among females: $G = +.00$ Index of Negative Affects: Slightly stronger among females: $G = +.43$ Lower among males: $G = +.37$ Unaffected by S.E.S.	AFF 2.3	G	-			Adults, urban areas, U.S.A. Probability area samples N: 2787, date: January, 1963 - January, 1964	BRADB 69 p. 164

(to be continued on next page)

MARRIAGE COMPANIONSHIP	5-item index of yes/no questions, on shared activities in the past few weeks: spent an evening just chatting with each other, had a good laugh together or shared a joke, been affectionate toward each other, taken a drive or gone for a walk just for pleasure, did something that the other one particularly appreciated	Stronger among females : G = -.37 Lower among males : G = -.25  Lower among males : G = +.17 Stronger among females : G = +.29 Index of Positive Affects: $\bar{DR} = +.13$ (05) Stronger among females: G = +.33 Lower among males: G = +.22 Lower among males of high S.E.S. only: $\bar{DR} = +.04$ (ns)  Index of Negative Affects: Stronger among females: G = -.12 Lower among males: G = -.03  Lower among males: G = +.20 Stronger among females: G = +.28	HAPP 1.1 AFF 2.3	G G	- +		Adults, urban areas, U.S.A. (See last page)	BRADB 69 p. 166
MARRIAGE SOCIABILITY	4-item index of yes/no questions on shared activities in the past few weeks: visited friends together; gone out together to a movie, bowling, sporting event or some other entertainment; entertained friends in your home; ate out in a restaurant together	Unaffected by sex males: G = +.12 females: G = +.16 Index of Positive Affects: $\bar{DR} = +.11$ (05) Stronger among females: G = +.25 Lower among males: G = +.16 Stronger among females of high S.E.S. only: $\bar{DR} = +.20$ (05)  Index of Negative Affects males: G = -.02 females: G = +.00  Unaffected by sex males: G = +.14 females: G = +.18	AFF 2.3 HAPP 1.1	G G	+ +	See above		BRADB 69 p. 168
FREQUENCY OF GOING OUT EVENINGS WITH SPOUSE	2 or fewer evenings a month vs more	33% of the very satisfied and satisfied and 40% of the relatively dissatisfied women go out 2 or fewer evenings a month with their husband. Among the men 29% of the very satisfied, 37% of the satisfied and 39% of the relatively dissatisfied report going out 2 or fewer evenings a month with their wives.	HAPP 2.1	D%	+	s	Middle-aged, middle class married couples, U.S.A. Non-probability accidental sample of couples N: 416, date: 1952 - 1953	ROSE 55 p. 17
DESIRED INTERACTION WITH HUSBAND	3-item index of closed questions on would enjoy seeing him every day, would spend most of my free time with him if possible, would like to see him more often	Computed for married females only	HAPP 1.1	r	+ .29	004	Females from the Seattle-Washington area, U.S.A. Non-probability chunk sample N: 153, date: —	BRIM 74 p. 437
PERCEIVED ASSISTANCE FROM HUSBAND	3-item index of closed questions on would ask him for the loan of a sizable amount of money if I were in serious need, would ask him to risk personal danger to help me out of a tight spot, would ask him to pick me up at the airport late at night if there were no other means of transportation available	See above	HAPP 1.1	r	+ .14	ns	See above	BRIM 74 p. 437
CONCERN FOR HUSBAND	Closed question: Try to always remember his birthday	See above	HAPP 1.1	r	+ .07	ns	See above	BRIM 74 p. 437
VALUE SIMILARITY WITH HUSBAND	3-item index of closed questions on generally share the same philosophy of life with him, his ideals most nearly approach my ideals of 'the right way', have a great many interests in common with him	See above	HAPP 1.1	r	+ .42	002	See above	BRIM 74 p. 437

SATISFACTION WITH LOVE LIFE	Closed question rated on an open graphic scale ranging from 'very dissatisfied' to 'very satisfied'	Lower for those of age 41-50 and 61-65 Stronger among those of low S.E.S. No relation among those of high educational level Unaffected by sex	HAPP 1.1	G	+ .70	05	National adult population, The Netherlands Probability area sample N: 1552, date: June, 1968	BAKKE 74 p. 28
SATISFACTION WITH SEX LIFE	Closed question: 'How do you feel about . . .' terrible / unhappy / mostly dissatisfied / mixed / mostly satisfied / pleased / delighted		HAPP 3.1 (1st instr.)	$h^2$	.40		National adult population, U.S.A. Probability area sample (third sample) N: 1072, date: November, 1972	ANDRE 74 p. 19

M 2.5 - VARIOUS FACTORS CONCERNING MARRIAGE

LEVEL OF ATTACHMENT TO MALE PARTNER	Closed question: recently terminated relationships / apparently not dating / won't marry present beau / will possibly marry present beau / will fairly certain marry present beau / engaged / married	Females who are certain of getting married, who are engaged, or who are married are generally happier than the females who are not (05).	AFF 2.1	DM	+ F <sup>+</sup>	ns	Female college seniors, U.S.A. Non-probability chunk sample N: 162, date: May - June, 1966	PORTE 67 p. 58
AGE OF MARRIAGE	Under the age of 20 vs later	20% of the relatively dissatisfied women and 6% of the satisfied women married under the age of 20 (sign.). No relationship among men	HAPP 2.1	D%	+		Middle-aged, middle class married couples, U.S.A. Non-probability accidental sample of couples N: 416, date: 1952 - 1953	ROSE 55 p. 16
AGE OF MARRIAGE	Under the age of 30 vs later	12% of the dissatisfied and 7% of the satisfied women married at 30 years of age or later (ns) No relationship among men	HAPP 2.1	D%	-		See above	ROSE 55 p. 16
DISSATISFACTION WITH AGE OF MARRIAGE	Wish to have been a little older / younger when got married	48% of the dissatisfied women and only 14% of the satisfied women wish to have got married when younger or older (sign.). Among males 15% of the dissatisfied and 9% of the satisfied wish they had been a little older when they got married (sign.). No difference in the proportion of males saying they wish they had married at a younger age.	HAPP 2.1	D%	-		See above	ROSE 55 p. 16