UNCG Disciplinary Honors College Senior Project

Krystal Lamb

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Levi Baker

Department Mentor: Dr. Janet Boseovski
Comparing the Marital Problems of Spouses Who Met Online vs. Offline

Krystal Lamb

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Abstract

Online dating has become a popular way for people to find potential romantic partners and even spouses. Previous research has shown that marriages that begin online are associated with greater satisfaction and less likely to end in separation or divorce compared to marriages that begin offline. Since marriages that begin online are associated with more satisfaction and less likely to end in separation or divorce, I set out to further this research by looking to see if marriages that begin online also have fewer problem areas in their marriages compared to marriages that begin offline. To test my predictions, I analyzed data from an archival dataset that had newlywed couples answer questionnaires over a two-year period. These questionnaires asked these participants to report how they currently feel about their marriage, as well as different topics that are a source of difficulty and/or disagreement in their marriage (i.e., problem areas). Because couples whose marriages begin online are more likely to practice self-disclosure and use more effective communication strategies such as validation, affection, and working towards their problems together, I expected to find that couples whose marriages begin online will have fewer problem areas compared to couples whose marriages begin offline. However, contrary to my predictions, whether or not couples met on an online dating platform predicted neither the trajectory of marital satisfaction nor trajectory of marital problems.
Comparing the Martial Problems of Spouses Who Met Online vs. Offline

The use of the internet is very prevalent in our society. The invention of the internet has changed how we spend our free time, how we communicate, and even how we meet our spouses (Cacioppo et al., 2012). Today, more than one-third of marriages begin online (Cacioppo et al., 2012). Online dating has simplified how we meet partners, how we communicate with them, and how many potential partners we are able to come in contact with (Cacioppo et al., 2012). Although there is some skepticism about how successful online dating is compared to traditional offline dating (Smith & Duggan, 2013), previous research has found that marriages that begin online are more satisfying and successful (i.e., less likely to end in separation or divorce) compared to marriages that begin offline (Cacioppo et al., 2012).

There are many benefits for a person using online dating platforms compared to traditional face-to-face dating. For example, because online dating is a type of computer-mediated-communication (i.e. communication over the computer) and not face-to-face communication, users are more comfortable on an online dating platform and are more likely to disclose their “true selves” than they would during face-to-face communication (Hance et al., 2017). Computer-mediated-communication promotes direct communication, allowing users to express their thoughts and feelings to other users in an informal manner (Walther, 1996). The anonymity of computer-mediated-communication leads to greater self-awareness of its users, causing them to be more likely to self-disclose information and to ask more personal questions to their potential partners than they would in a face-to-face setting (Walther, 1996). So, because people are likely to disclose more sensitive information when using computer-mediated-communication, this method of communication promotes greater intimacy between partners (Boyle, 2016).
The proposed research would aim to extend previous research done on the satisfaction and success of marriages that begin online by not only looking at the satisfaction levels of people whose marriages begin online compared to offline, but also by looking at the problem areas between couples whose marriages begin online compared to offline. To be more specific, this study’s purpose is to see if there is a difference between the number of topics that are a source of difficulty and/or disagreement (i.e., problem areas) identified by couples whose marriages begin online compared to couples whose marriages begin offline. This may further explain why couples who meet online are happier with their marriages and why they are less likely to end in separation or divorce. I will be examining questionnaires completed by the couples asking them how they currently feel about their partner in terms of satisfaction as well as different topics that are a source of difficulty and/or disagreement in their marriage.

One of the biggest factors that not only contributes to a satisfying and stable marriage, but also the amount of problem areas within a marriage is communication (Jorgensen & Gaudy, 1980). Communication is believed to be the process that underlies and supports other marital processes and outcomes (Jorgensen & Gaudy, 1980). Quality of communication has also been linked to the level of satisfaction within marriages (Blood & Wolfe, 1960), such that people in marriages that use more effective communication strategies, such as working towards their problems, validation (i.e. acknowledging how the other partner feels), and/or expressing affection towards their partner are happier with their marriages compared to people in marriages that use poor communication strategies, such as withdrawal (i.e. not responding to the conversation or moving away or avoiding their partner either during an argument or in general), criticizing their partner, and/or invalidating their partner’s feelings (Karney & Bradbury, 1995). In a study from 2013, 53.8% of divorced individuals cited “too much conflict and arguing” as a
major contributing factor of their divorce. Many indicated that problems were not solved effectively within their marriages and that communication problems increased over time, both in intensity and frequency during their marriages. This caused the individuals to feel that their positive connection to their partner had been lost as well as mutual support from their partner (Scott et al., 2013).

The way that a person communicates with their partner before they are married predicts the way they will communicate with their partner after they are married, meaning that communication patterns that are present before a couple is married will also be present after the couple is married (Noller et al., 1994). For example, if a person tends to yell at their partner during arguments before they are married, they will likely yell at their partner during arguments after they are married. There is a deep foundation built through communicating online that stays with the couple once they decide to move their relationship to face-to-face, meaning that a couple’s communication style is likely to spill over and affect the way they communicate once they decide to move the relationship offline (Baker, 2002).

Self-disclosure is another very important type of communication within a marriage (Derlega & Chaikin, 1975). Self-disclosure is when the partners within the marriage express how they feel, their point of view, as well as their fears and doubts about themselves to the other partner in the marriage and is beneficial for communication in a marriage because it allows private and personal information to be revealed that otherwise would have never been known (Jorgensen & Gaudy, 1980). Couples who practice self-disclosure build a strong foundation that enhances each partner’s satisfaction with the marriage and also promotes more efficient interpersonal problem-solving techniques that result in a more stable and satisfying marriage with less problem areas over time (Jorgensen & Gaudy, 1980). Since users of online dating
platforms are more likely to self-disclose online due to the anonymity of computer-mediated-communication (Walther, 1996), couples who met online are also more likely to self-disclose in person as well, because this style of communication spills over once they decide to move their relationship face-to-face (Baker, 2002).

According to Baker (2002), couples that are dating online have the opportunity to explain themselves more clearly since they are more likely to self-disclose online. This means that conflicts are able to come out and be explained and thus resolved sooner and more clearly than face-to-face conflicts, resulting in better communication and thus fewer problem areas between the couple. This, in turn, allows couples dating online to learn how to handle one another’s communication style even when conflict may occur online, which not only enhances satisfaction with the online relationship, but also helps enhance relationship satisfaction once the couple decides to move the relationship offline, because the couple is already familiar with the different communication styles and knows how to handle them effectively and thus resolve conflicts more easily (Baker, 2002).

Spouses that are satisfied with their marriages communicate more effectively with their partner, meaning they are less likely to use avoidance and more likely to be involved in discussing their issues and negotiating them with their partner compared to spouses that are not satisfied with their marriages, meaning that married couples that are happier are more likely to confront their conflicts together (Noller et al., 1994). Thus, because couples whose marriage begin online are more likely to be happier with their marriages, they are also more likely to use effective communication strategies, less likely to use avoidance, and more likely to discuss their issues and negotiate them with their partner resulting in less problem areas within the marriage because they are more likely to solve their issues together instead of avoid them.
Current Research

Previous research shows that marriages that begin online are happier with their marriages compared to marriages that begin offline (Cacioppo et al., 2012) and that couples who are happier with their marriages are more likely to use effective communication strategies, work together towards solving their problems and use conflict resolution (Blood & Wolfe, 1960; Karney & Bradbury, 1995). In addition, research also states that couples whose marriages begin online are also more likely to use self-disclosure in their communication style compared to couples whose marriages begin offline, because the self-disclosure they shared online spills over into their face-to-face relationship (Baker, 2002). Because of this, I hypothesize that couples whose marriages begin online will not only be happier with their marriages compared to those that begin offline, but also that couples whose marriages began online will have fewer problem areas compared to those whose marriages began offline. Because couples whose marriages begin online are happier with their marriages compared to those that began offline (Cacioppo et al., 2012), couples whose marriages began online are also more likely to use effective communication strategies, work together towards their problems and use conflict resolution (Blood & Wolfe, 1960; Karney & Bradbury, 1995). They are also more likely to disclose more information with their partner since their self-disclosure style of communication spilled over into their face-to-face relationship (Baker, 2002). This, in theory, leads to more discussion and negotiation of problems that arise within the marriage, and less avoidance of problems within the marriage. This also may make it more likely that couples who marriages begin online are more likely to talk about and solve their problems with one another, which ultimately leads to fewer problem areas between partners whose marriage begin online compared to those whose marriages begin offline. For the purpose of this study, data collection has already occurred.
These predictions will be tested using data from an archival dataset from a longitudinal study of newlywed participants who met their spouse either on an online dating platform or face-to-face.

**Method**

**Participants**

Participants in this study were 101 newlywed couples. This included 93 heterosexual couples, seven lesbian couples, and one gay couple. Recruitment of participants was completed by sending invitations to eligible couples who applied for marriage licenses in the county where the study took place. Then, couples who responded were screened during a telephone interview to make sure they met the following eligibility requirements: they had been married for less than 3 months, they were at least 18 years old, they were fluent in English and had completed at least ten years of education (to make sure they could thoroughly understand the questionnaires).

Husbands were 32.66 years old (SD= 8.72) on average and received 16.17 years (SD= 3.02) of education. Sixty-two percent were White or Caucasian, twenty-eight percent were Black or African American, and the remaining nine percent were another or two or more ethnicities. Forty-six percent were Christian, 34% were agnostic, atheist, or reported that they are not religious, and the remaining 20% were another religious affiliation. Seventy-six percent were employed full-time and 12% were full-time students. Wives were 32.08 years old (SD= 8.74) on average and received 17.54 years (SD= 2.61) of education. Sixty-five percent were White or Caucasian, 26% were Black or African American, and the remaining 11% were another or two or more ethnicities. Forty-five percent were Christian, 33% were agnostic, atheist, or reported that they are not religious, and the remaining 22% reported another religious affiliation. Sixty-five percent were employed full-time and 13% were full-time students. This sample size was obtained
because it was the maximum number of participants able to be recruited in one year for the broader study.

**Materials**

Participants used their own personal computers with internet access to complete an online version of the questionnaires through a Qualtrics survey at home. The Quality Marriage Index (QMI; Norton, 1983) will be used to measure marital satisfaction and the Inventory of Marital Problems (IMP; Geiss & O’Leary, 1981) will be used to measure marital problems.

**Design**

This study is a longitudinal, correlational design. The independent variable is how the married couples met before they began dating, either on an online dating platform or face-to-face. The dependent variable is how many topics the married couples identified as a source of difficulty and/or disagreement in their marriage (i.e. the number of problem areas). I will use data from the questionnaires the couples answered over two years to see how the couples met (either online or offline), how satisfied they were at the beginning of their marriage, and the amount of problem areas the couples have between them.

**Procedure**

At the beginning of the study, participants completed the series of questionnaires online that asked them about their demographics (e.g., gender, race/ethnicity, religion), whether they met their spouse online or offline, the severity of potential relationship problems (e.g., communication, money management, solving problems), and their satisfaction with their marriage. After the beginning questionnaire, couples were re-contacted and emailed a packet of questionnaires that contained the same measure of marital satisfaction and problem areas every four months for the next two years. Participants completed these questionnaires either online
through Qualtrics or through the mail with pen or pencil and paper. Participants were paid $100 for their participation at the beginning and $25 for the other questionnaires completed.

Measures

Demographics. First, participants completed the demographics portion of the questionnaire in which they were asked to provide information about their age, race, religious affiliation, etc. (See Appendix A). Participants were also asked if they met their spouse on a dating website, if they responded with “yes”, they were asked to list the website where they met their spouse.

Marital Satisfaction. Marital satisfaction was measured using the Quality Marriage Index (QMI; Norton, 1983). This measure asks participants how well three specific statements describe how they currently feel about their marriage (See Appendix B). Specifically, participants were asked, “How satisfied are with your partner?” “how satisfied are you with your relationship to your partner?” and “how satisfied are you with their marriage?” Participants answered these questions on a 7-point scale (1=“not at all satisfied”, 7= “extremely satisfied”).

Problem Areas. Problem areas were evaluated using the Inventory of Marital Problems (IMP; Geiss & O’Leary, 1981). This measure asked participants to identify topics that are a source of difficulty and/or disagreement in their marriage (See Appendix C). Participants were given 19 different topics (e.g., household management, jealousy) and were asked to rate how much these topics are a source of problem between the two of them. These topics were rated on a 11-point scale (1=“not a problem”, 11=“major problem”).

Results

Preliminary Analyses
Descriptive statistics and comparisons of marital satisfaction and problems at each time point of spouses that met online and offline can be found in Table 1.

Before examining whether method of meeting a partner (i.e., online vs. offline) predicted changes in marital satisfaction and marital problems, I estimated the average trajectory of changes in marital satisfaction and marital problems from Time 1 to Time 7 by conducting two growth curve analyses (Bryk & Raudenbush, 1987), one estimating changes in marital problems and another estimating changes in marital satisfaction, using a three-level model using the HLM 7.03 computer program. Reports of spouses’ marital satisfaction and marital problems were regressed into a variable coded for the time of assessment (i.e., Time 1 to 7) and a randomly varying intercept in the first level of the model. Results indicated that on average, marital satisfaction declined over time $t(791) = -2.56, p = 0.01$, as did marital problems, $t(798) = -1.8, p = 0.06$.

**Primary Analyses**

To address my primary prediction that spouses who met online would be more satisfied and experience fewer marital problems over time than did those who met offline, I conducted two additional growth curve analyses that further regressed a dummy-code for method of meeting a partner (i.e., online vs. offline) onto both the intercept and time of assessment in the previously described three-level models. Contrary to my predictions, whether or not couples met on an online dating platform predicted neither the trajectory of marital satisfaction, $t(790) = -0.04, p = 0.93$, or trajectory of marital problems $t(797) = 0.09, p = 0.93$.

**Discussion**

Previous research by Cacioppo et al. (2012) has suggested that relationships that begin online are more successful (i.e. less likely to end in separation or divorce) and satisfying
compared to relationships that begin offline. This study set out to expand this research by not only looking to see if marriages that begin online were more satisfied compared to marriages that begin offline, but to also see if marriages that begin online had less problem areas compared to marriages that begin offline.

Previous research has also shown that couples who are more satisfied with their marriages are more likely to use effective communication strategies, work together towards solving their problems by using conflict resolution (Blood & Wolfe, 1960; Karney & Bradbury, 1995) and that couples who meet online are more likely to use self-disclosure in their communication styles, because their self-disclosure used online spills over into their face-to-face communication (Baker, 2002). Because marriages that begin online are more satisfying and successful compared to marriages that begin offline, I predicted that couples whose marriages begin online would also be more likely to use effective communication strategies, work together towards solving their problems using conflict resolution, and to use self-disclosure. Considering these factors, I predicted that couples whose marriages begin online will be more satisfied with their marriages and have less problem areas compared to marriages that begin offline because they are likely to have better communication strategies compared to marriages that begin offline.

To test my predictions, I investigated the trajectory of marital satisfaction and marital problems between married couples who met offline compared to married couples who met online over a period of two years. However, despite my hypothesis, my findings suggest that there is no observable difference between marriages that begin offline between marriages that begin online in terms of trajectory of marital satisfaction or marital problems. Over a span of two years, no statistically significant difference was found between the two groups (i.e. online vs. offline) regarding trajectory of marital satisfaction or marital problems. However, at time 7, the results
became more notably different than times 1 through 6, suggesting that after two years of marriage, the trajectory of both marital satisfaction and marital problems may begin to change.

I constructed my hypothesis based on the differences between the way couples who met offline communicate compared to couples who met online communicate. I predicted that because couples who met online are more likely to use effective communication strategies, work together towards solving their problems by using conflict resolution (Blood & Wolfe, 1960; Karney & Bradbury, 1995) and to use self-disclosure in their communication styles (Baker, 2002), they would have more marital satisfaction and less problem areas compared to couples who met offline. These findings suggest that there may be no significant difference in the way couples who met offline communicate compared to couples who met online communication, which may explain why there is no significant difference in trajectory of marital satisfaction or marital problems between the two groups (i.e. online vs. offline).

**Theoretical Implications**

Prior to 2010, meeting through mutual friends was the most popular method to meet a potential romantic partner (Shashkevich, 2019). Today, the most popular method to meet a potential romantic partner is through the internet (Shashkevich, 2019). Previous research findings have been inconsistent in explaining the success or lack thereof of online dating relationships. While some research has shown that couples who met online are more satisfied with their marriages and have more successful marriages compared to those who met offline (Cacioppo et al., 2012), other research has expressed skepticism for online dating (Smith & Duggan, 2013). The findings of this study suggest that a person is no better off finding a satisfying, successful marriage face-to-face than they would be on an online dating platform. This is very important due to the growing popularity of online dating platforms. In today’s digital age, these findings
help give people hope that they will find satisfying, successful marriages, even if they do not have the resources to do so face-to-face.

In the last ten years, the number of Americans who have reported using online dating sites has changed dramatically (Smith & Duggan, 2013; Anderson et al., 2020). In 2013, only 10% of Americans reported using an online dating site, but that amount has increased to 30% in 2020 (Smith & Duggan, 2013; Anderson et al., 2020). Further, in 2005, only 44% of Americans believed that online dating was a good way to meet people, and that number increased to 59% in 2013 (Smith & Duggan, 2013). Finally, in 2005 29% of Americans thought that people who used online dating sites were desperate, and that number decreased to 21% in 2013 (Smith & Duggan, 2013). Clearly, attitudes and beliefs about online dating are changing and it is now a more acceptable way to meet romantic partners. This may explain why no difference was found in the trajectories of marital satisfaction and marital problems between couples who met offline compared to couples who met offline, as one method is no better than the other.

Online dating is changing the nature of romantic relationships. The results of this study are just the beginning in learning how to have a successful and satisfying online relationship that may develop into something more (i.e. marriage). Many users of online dating platforms report that using these sites leaves them feeling more frustrated than hopeful (Anderson et al., 2020). However, upon learning that the success of marriages that begin online are not that much different than marriages that begin offline, users may be more encouraged to practice resilience when it comes to these sites, instead of getting frustrated and completely giving up. This may result in users meeting their future spouse that they otherwise would not have met had they given up.

**Directions for Future Research**
Future areas of research may benefit from directly examining the trajectories between online dating relationships and offline dating relationships. This may help to better highlight any differences between marital satisfaction and trajectory of marital problems. Additionally, it may help to examine both marital satisfaction and trajectory of marital problems over a longer period of time. In this study, both were only examined for a period of two years. As previously stated, no significant differences in the two groups (i.e. online vs. offline) were found regarding the trajectory of marital satisfaction and marital problems, but at time 7, which was the two-year mark, results began to change slightly. This may suggest that marital satisfaction and trajectory of marital problems does not begin to change until after the two-year mark. This could be attributed to the “honeymoon phase” couples go through after they first get married, which has been shown to exist in many different contexts (Blut et al., 2011). This phase is characterized by a high level of trust and satisfaction within the relationship (Blut et al., 2011). Following couples for a longer period of time would allow researchers to see if trajectories do begin to change after the two-year period, and if the change in trajectory can be attributed to the “honeymoon period”.

Other future research could utilize discussion tasks in order to see more specific communication differences between couples who met online and couples who met offline. By having couples from both groups participate in discussion tasks, researchers could examine firsthand the differences in communication between couples who met online compared to couples who met offline, specifically regarding effective communication strategies and self-disclosure. The last study investigating communication patterns of online intimate relationships was done over twenty years ago (Walther, 1996). Since then, a substantial amount of research has been conducted on online dating in general, as well as communication patterns of intimate relationships that began face-to-face. However, there has been no recent research conducted on
communication patterns of online intimate relationships, and no research has been conducted comparing the different communication patterns of couples who met online compared to couples who met offline. Since the data on communication between partners who met on online dating platforms is somewhat outdated, this would allow researchers to see if the same results still exist. Utilizing discussion tasks for couples within this area of research would allow researchers to see if couples who met online are still more likely to use effective communication strategies, work together towards solving their problems by using conflict resolution, and use self-disclosure compared to couples who met offline. Future studies may also want to utilize methods other than self-report surveys to avoid participant bias.

Finally, future studies should also look at more diverse samples. This study consisted of mostly white, heterosexual Americans. Although the United States is the most active country on online dating platforms, they are followed closely by India, Ireland, the United Kingdom and Spain (Anderson et al., 2020). In addition, members of the LGBTQ+ community use online dating platforms more than members of the heterosexual population (Anderson et al., 2020). Also, African Americans use online dating platforms more than do Caucasians, followed close behind by Latinos/Latinas (Anderson et al., 2020). Knowing this information, it would be important to conduct other studies similar to this one involving participants of different nationalities, races, as well as sexual orientations to see if previous results can be generalized to other populations.

**Strengths and Limitations**

One important strength of this study is that it utilizes longitudinal data. This allows us to see any existing patterns between the different time periods (i.e. time 1 to time 7). This also allows us to see if the trajectory of marital satisfaction or marital problems changed at any point
during the marriage over a two-year span. Because this is a longitudinal study, I can also be more confident in its validity than I would be with a cross-sectional study.

Another important strength of this study to note is that the results illustrating trajectory of marital satisfaction and marital problems were consistent over the 7 time points of measurement. This gives us confidence that these results are accurately described and not confounded by another possible variable. Because results were consistent between times 1 through 7, we can be confident that trajectory of marital satisfaction and marital problems stays the same for both marriages that begin offline and marriages that begin online for the first two years of marriage. Additionally, the married couples involved in the study were fairly similar on a variety of different variables (e.g., race, ethnicity, sexual orientation). Because of this, any possible error due to confounding variables regarding differences in participants can be reduced.

Despite its strengths, this study also had several limitations. Although this is a longitudinal study, results are only correlational. Because of this, I cannot say why there is no observable difference between trajectory of marital satisfaction and marital problems in marriages that begin online compared to marriages that begin offline. In my earlier predictions, I predicted that there may be a difference in trajectories due to differing communication patterns between marriages that begin online compared to marriages that begin offline. However, I cannot say with complete certainty that because there are no observable differences in trajectory of marital satisfaction and marital problems, that there is also no difference in the way these two groups communicate.

Another notable limitation is that this study relied solely on self-report measures. Participants were asked to identify themselves how satisfied they are with their marriage currently and also asked to identify different topics that were a source of difficulty and/or
disagreement in their marriage. Participants may have answered these questions based on how they were feeling on that particular day instead of answering based on how they felt about the marriage overall. Also, participants may have answered these questions based on poor recall or because they wanted their marriage to appear better, or happier and/or successful than it really is.

Finally, one particular limitation of the study is that the sample was not very diverse. As mentioned previously, participants in this sample were mostly white Americans of the heterosexual population. Because of this, results cannot be generalized to populations of other ethnicities, nationalities, or sexual orientations. Future research may benefit from examining samples that are more diverse in nature.
References


Shashkevich, A. (2019, August 21). Meeting online has become the most popular way U.S. couples connect, Stanford sociologist finds. Stanford University. 

https://news.stanford.edu/2019/08/21/online-dating-popular-way-u-s-couples-meet/#:~:text=Internet%20dating%20has%20the%20potential,higher%20than%20for%20heterosexual%20couples


https://doi.org.libproxy.uncg.edu/10.1177/009365096023001001
Table 1. *Comparison of marital satisfaction and problems of those who met online vs. offline at each time point*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>$t$ (df)</th>
<th>$p$</th>
<th>$M_{online}$</th>
<th>$SD_{online}$</th>
<th>$M_{offline}$</th>
<th>$SD_{offline}$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>.75</td>
<td>41.17</td>
<td>7.12</td>
<td>41.96</td>
<td>5.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>.12</td>
<td>40.13</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>40.26</td>
<td>7.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>.44</td>
<td>39.48</td>
<td>9.57</td>
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<tr>
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<td>41.29</td>
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<td>-.27</td>
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<td>41.74</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
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<td>-1.46</td>
<td>43.61</td>
<td>2.97</td>
<td>41.61</td>
<td>5.67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note. M indicates mean, while SD indicates standard deviation, respectively.*
Appendix A

Demographics

Are you male or female?
- Male
- Female

When were you born? (please use the format: mm/dd/yyyy)

What is your race/ethnicity?
- Asian
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino/a
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White or Caucasian
- Another ethnicity
- Two or more ethnicities

What is your religious affiliation?
- Christian-Protestant
- Christian-Catholic
- Jewish
People are different in their sexual attraction to other people. Which best describes your feelings? Are you...

- Heterosexual or straight
- Gay or lesbian
- Bisexual

Did you meet your spouse on a dating website?

- No
- Yes

If so, which website?
Current Satisfaction

Please indicate how well the following statements describe HOW YOU CURRENTLY FEEL ABOUT YOUR MARRIAGE.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Not at all satisfied</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Extremely satisfied</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How satisfied are you with your partner?</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How satisfied are you with your relationship with your partner?</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How satisfied are you with your marriage?</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
All couples experience some difficulties or differences of opinion in their marriages, even if they are only very minor ones. Listed below are a number of issues that might be difficulties in your marriage. For each issue indicate how much it is CURRENTLY a source of difficulty or disagreement for you and your partner.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem Area</th>
<th>Not a Problem</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Major Problem</th>
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<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion</td>
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<td>○</td>
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<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-laws, parents, relatives</td>
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<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation and leisure time</td>
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