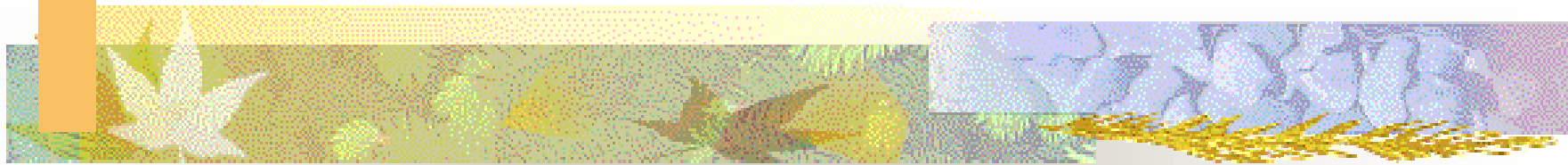


Happiness of Marriage





People who are happily married:

- experience less poverty, crime & domestic violence,
- Have stronger immune systems & higher rates of overall physical health,
- have children that live longer, and
- live on average 4 years longer

...than those that are not happily married.



Factors

- There are a number of factors that influence Happiness of Marriage.
 - Number of Children
 - Frequency of Sex



Number of Children

- Parental status and parenting transitions have strong effects on marital happiness.
- Children can either bring joy to a relationship or (detrimental) stress.



Frequency of Sex

- Studies show unhappiness with the marital relationship to be a significant correlate of sexually inactive marriages.
- Lack of sexual activity may be a danger signal for many marriages.



Variables

The key variables of this study attempt to uncover whether there are statistically significant relationships between either Number of Children and Marital Happiness and Frequency of Sex and Marital Happiness.



DATA SET

- GSS94
- Included 1541 married respondents
- Responses came from survey questions Re:
 - How happy are you in your marriage?
(very happy, pretty happy, not too happy, don't know, NA)
 - How many children do you have?
(1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8 or more)
 - How frequently have you had sex during the last year?
(not at all, once or twice, 1/month, 2-3/month, wkly, 2-3/wk, 4+/wk, dk)



H1: Freq. of sex influences marital happiness

H_A : In the population of married respondents, freq. of sex and marital happiness are related, that is dependent on each other.

H_0 : In the population of married respondents, freq. of sex and marital happiness are not related, that is independent of each other.



Theory:

Freq. of sex & happiness of marriage

- Couples who have more sex experience greater marital happiness.
- Couples who have frequent sex are comfortable with each other and more likely to communicate better than those that do not.



Chi-Square Test

- Test whether there is a statistical significance between the two variables.
- If there is a large discrepancy between the observed and expected frequencies, we reject the null.
- Null hypothesis is always that the two variables are not related.

Crosstab: Freq. of sex & happiness of marriage

Sex01 * Happiness of marriage (1=happy, 0=not) Crosstabulation

			Happiness of marriage (1=happy, 0=not)		Total
			not happy	Very Happy	
Sex01	.00	Count	320	401	721
		Expected Count	279.3	441.7	721.0
		% within Happiness of marriage (1=happy, 0=not)	56.9%	45.1%	49.7%
	1.00	Count	242	488	730
		Expected Count	282.7	447.3	730.0
		% within Happiness of marriage (1=happy, 0=not)	43.1%	54.9%	50.3%
Total		Count	562	889	1451
		Expected Count	562.0	889.0	1451.0
		% within Happiness of marriage (1=happy, 0=not)	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Chi-Square test

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	19.285 ^b	1	.000		
Continuity Correction ^a	18.814	1	.000		
Likelihood Ratio	19.333	1	.000		
Fisher's Exact Test				.000	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	19.271	1	.000		
N of Valid Cases	1451				

a. Computed only for a 2x2 table

b. 0 cells (.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 279.26.



ANOVA

- If means for one category are significantly different across categories of another.
- But does not tell you which groups are different so need to do a Post Hoc Test.

Comparison of Means

Descriptives

FREQUENCY OF SEX DURING LAST YEAR

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval for Mean		Minimum	Maximum
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound		
VERY HAPPY	828	3.60	1.526	.053	3.50	3.71	0	6
PRETTY HAPPY	482	3.24	1.608	.073	3.10	3.39	0	6
NOT TOO HAPPY	42	2.76	1.778	.274	2.21	3.32	0	6
Total	1352	3.45	1.577	.043	3.37	3.53	0	6

Reject the Null:

ANOVA

FREQUENCY OF SEX DURING LAST YEAR

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	59.781	2	29.891	12.223	.000
Within Groups	3298.799	1349	2.445		
Total	3358.580	1351			

Multiple Comparisons

Dependent Variable: FREQUENCY OF SEX DURING LAST YEAR

Tukey HSD

(I) HAPPINESS OF MARRIAGE	(J) HAPPINESS OF MARRIAGE	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
VERY HAPPY	PRETTY HAPPY	.359*	.090	.000	.15	.57
	NOT TOO HAPPY	.842*	.247	.002	.26	1.42
PRETTY HAPPY	VERY HAPPY	-.359*	.090	.000	-.57	-.15
	NOT TOO HAPPY	.483	.252	.134	-.11	1.07
NOT TOO HAPPY	VERY HAPPY	-.842*	.247	.002	-1.42	-.26
	PRETTY HAPPY	-.483	.252	.134	-1.07	.11

*. The mean difference is significant at the .05 level.

Post Hoc Test: Tukey

FREQUENCY OF SEX DURING LAST YEAR

Tukey HSD^{a,b}

HAPPINESS OF MARRIAGE	N	Subset for alpha = .05	
		1	2
NOT TOO HAPPY	42	2.76	
PRETTY HAPPY	482	3.24	3.24
VERY HAPPY	828		3.60
Sig.		.056	.202

Means for groups in homogeneous subsets are displayed.

- Uses Harmonic Mean Sample Size = 110.734.
- The group sizes are unequal. The harmonic mean of the group sizes is used. Type I error levels are not guaranteed.

T-Test

Independent Samples Test

	Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
	F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
								Lower	Upper
FREQUENCY OF S DURING LAST YEAR	5.613	.018	4.552	1350	.000	.398	.087	.226	.569
Equal variance assumed									
Equal variance not assumed			4.488	1060.572	.000	.398	.089	.224	.572



H2: Number of Children influences Happiness of Marriage

H_A : In a population of married respondents, number of children and marital happiness are related, that is dependent on each other.

H_0 : In a population of married respondents, number of children and marital happiness are not related, that is independent of each other.



Theory:

Number of Children & Happiness of Marriage

- The more children in a marriage, the more likely the marriage is to experience stress and less happiness.
- More children = need to have more finances, social supports,...

**Number of Children (7=7 or more) * Happiness of marriage (1=happy, 0=not)
Crosstabulation**

			Happiness of marriage (1=happy, 0=not)		Total
			not happy	Very Happy	
Number of Children (7=7 or more)	1.00	Count	103	158	261
		Expected Count	102.8	158.2	261.0
		% within Happiness of marriage (1=happy, 0=not)	17.1%	17.1%	17.1%
	2.00	Count	218	309	527
		Expected Count	207.6	319.4	527.0
		% within Happiness of marriage (1=happy, 0=not)	36.2%	33.4%	34.5%
	3.00	Count	124	165	289
		Expected Count	113.9	175.1	289.0
		% within Happiness of marriage (1=happy, 0=not)	20.6%	17.8%	18.9%
	4.00	Count	58	81	139
		Expected Count	54.8	84.2	139.0
		% within Happiness of marriage (1=happy, 0=not)	9.6%	8.7%	9.1%
	5.00	Count	27	32	59
		Expected Count	23.2	35.8	59.0
		% within Happiness of marriage (1=happy, 0=not)	4.5%	3.5%	3.9%
	6.00	Count	11	9	20
		Expected Count	7.9	12.1	20.0
		% within Happiness of marriage (1=happy, 0=not)	1.8%	1.0%	1.3%
	7.00	Count	61	172	233
		Expected Count	91.8	141.2	233.0
		% within Happiness of marriage (1=happy, 0=not)	10.1%	18.6%	15.2%
Total	Count	602	926	1528	
	Expected Count	602.0	926.0	1528.0	
	% within Happiness of marriage (1=happy, 0=not)	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Chi-Square Test

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	22.751 ^a	6	.001
Likelihood Ratio	23.616	6	.001
Linear-by-Linear Association	9.300	1	.002
N of Valid Cases	1528		

a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 7.88.

Comparison of Means

Descriptives

Number of Children (7=7 or more)

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval for Mean		Minimum	Maximum
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound		
					VERY HAPPY	926		
PRETTY HAPPY	555	2.9820	1.77824	.07548	2.8337	3.1302	1.00	7.00
NOT TOO HAPPY	47	2.4681	1.51587	.22111	2.0230	2.9132	1.00	7.00
Total	1528	3.1309	1.95359	.04998	3.0329	3.2289	1.00	7.00

Reject Null Hypothesis

ANOVA

Number of Children (7=7 or more)

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	46.938	2	23.469	6.191	.002
Within Groups	5780.884	1525	3.791		
Total	5827.822	1527			

Multiple Comparisons

Dependent Variable: Number of Children (7=7 or more)

Tukey HSD

(I) HAPPINESS OF MARRIAGE	(J) HAPPINESS OF MARRIAGE	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
VERY HAPPY	PRETTY HAPPY	.27180*	.10452	.025	.0266	.5170
	NOT TOO HAPPY	.78569*	.29111	.019	.1027	1.4686
PRETTY HAPPY	VERY HAPPY	-.27180*	.10452	.025	-.5170	-.0266
	NOT TOO HAPPY	.51390	.29578	.192	-.1800	1.2078
NOT TOO HAPPY	VERY HAPPY	-.78569*	.29111	.019	-1.4686	-.1027
	PRETTY HAPPY	-.51390	.29578	.192	-1.2078	.1800

*. The mean difference is significant at the .05 level.

Post Hoc Test: Tukey

Number of Children (7=7 or more)

Tukey HSD ^{a,b}

HAPPINESS OF MARRIAGE	N	Subset for alpha = .05	
		1	2
NOT TOO HAPPY	47	2.4681	
PRETTY HAPPY	555	2.9820	2.9820
VERY HAPPY	926		3.2538
Sig.		.094	.514

Means for groups in homogeneous subsets are displayed.

- Uses Harmonic Mean Sample Size = 124.181.
- The group sizes are unequal. The harmonic mean of the group sizes is used. Type I error levels are not guaranteed.

T-Test

Independent Samples Test

	Levene's Test for equality of Variance		t-test for Equality of Means							
	F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference		
								Lower	Upper	
Number of Child (7=7 or more)	Equal varianc assumed	33.431	.000	3.058	1526	.002	.31192	.10200	.11184	.51200
	Equal varianc not assumed			3.160	415.992	.002	.31192	.09872	.11826	.50558



Control Variable = Age

- Older people that are married are more likely to be married longer, and if they are still together it is assumed they are happy in their marriage.
- As people get older, they have their children, they are happier, because children are older.

Correlation

Correlations

		AGE OF RESPONDENT	NUMBER OF CHILDREN	HAPPINESS OF MARRIAGE
AGE OF RESPONDENT	Pearson Correlation	1	.403**	-.014
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.589
	N	1540	1536	1528
NUMBER OF CHILDREN	Pearson Correlation	.403**	1	.103**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		.000
	N	1536	1537	1528
HAPPINESS OF MARRIAGE	Pearson Correlation	-.014	.103**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.589	.000	
	N	1528	1528	1529

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).



Control Variable: Income

- Higher income families experience less marital happiness when they have children.
- Although they have the resources to raise children, they may also be changing their lives more.

Correlation

Correlations

		NUMBER OF CHILDREN	HAPPINESS OF MARRIAGE	TOTAL FAMILY INCOME
NUMBER OF CHILDREN	Pearson Correlation	1	.103**	-.080**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.002
	N	1537	1528	1484
HAPPINESS OF MARRIAGE	Pearson Correlation	.103**	1	-.064*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		.014
	N	1528	1529	1477
TOTAL FAMILY INCOME	Pearson Correlation	-.080**	-.064*	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.002	.014	
	N	1484	1477	1485

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

* . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).



Future Research

- As our nations debates the merits of a range of solutions to our most difficult social ills, it is important that we do not forget that one of the main reasons that the government is involved in these areas is to protect and provide for children.
- Gov't can help families by Funding marriage preparation and education services for cohabitating and other married new parents who want them. Add a marriage message to teen pregnancy prevention.