



UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

THE 2011 STUDY OF COUPLE SIMILARITY – SUMMARY OF RESULTS

We ran the 2011 Study of Couple Similarity in association with The Glasgow Science Centre during August and September. If you participated in the study, thanks! We'll use your data to test our hypotheses about why couples get together and stay together.

It'll be some time before the results are published in scientific journals. In the meantime, here's a brief summary of what we found. Be sure to check back, because we'll update this document as we make further discoveries.

APPEARANCE

These images show the average facial appearance of the participants in our study. We don't yet have any data on whether couples are more similar in appearance than we would expect by chance, but we're working on it.



AGE AND RELATIONSHIP DURATION

The average age of our female participants was 33.3 years. Men were 35.8 on average. On average, men were 2.5 years older than their partner.

The average relationship duration was 9.8 years.

CHILDREN

55.3% of couples had at least one biological child. The average time it took for women to conceive their first child with their partner was 8.1 months. The average birth weight of this child was 7lbs 8oz.

NUMBER OF SEXUAL PARTNERS

Men reported having slept with 11 partners on average. Women reported 6 partners on average. These averages were influenced strongly by the responses of a subset of participants who reported lots of sexual partners: the most common number of sexual partners, for both men and women, was one.

PILL USE AND PARTNER APPEARANCE

Previous research has shown that the kind of men women find attractive varies depending on whether they are currently using the contraceptive pill. But we don't know whether the pill affects actual partner choice in the real world, or just preferences in the lab. To check this, we asked our participants to tell us if they were using the pill when their relationship began, and then looked to see if the partners of pill-users looked different to the partners of non pill-users.

Preliminary results suggest that pill-use may be associated with the masculinity of the male partner's face, but we need to do some more work on this to be sure.