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Summative content analysis for understanding of romantic relationship among rural Mexican American adolescent women

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Abstract

An understanding of romantic relationships among adolescent Mexican-American females is lacking yet needed to provide culturally appropriate sexual health interventions. Although explored among other populations, romantic relationships among adolescents in rural settings is under-studied. This study explores romantic relationships for rural Mexican American female adolescents as a component of sexual health promotion.

Rural Mexican-American adolescent females (n=82) aged 14-18 years were recruited via convenience sampling at a rural health clinic. They completed open-ended individual interviews describing romantic relationships. Responses to open-ended questions were analyzed using summative content analysis. The majority reported sexual activity (62.2%) of which 23.5% had been pregnant. Summative content analyses identified personal characteristics and relationship characteristics as main categories with eight additional subcategories from responses. Sex was reported as what men wanted from women while physical attractiveness was perceived as important for both genders in development of romantic relationships. They prioritized other relational and personal characteristic such as integrity, and partner treatment of self and others. More obesity was present among those reportedly in romantic relationships. Description of parental roles as a component of romantic relationships was not present. Addressing adolescent romantic relationship with an emphasis on what male and female adolescents want or perceive as expected from relationships, long-term outcomes of relationships and on parental roles may enhance sexual health among rural Mexican-American adolescent populations. This study addresses a gap in literature by exploring romantic relationships for rural Mexican American female adolescents. This understanding of romantic relationships augments existing sexual health programming for these adolescents.

Introduction

Sexual health interventions tailored for rural Mexican-American adolescent females are needed however lacking (Pew Research Center, 2017; Stacciarini, Smith, Garvan, Wiens, & Cottler, 2015). Rural Mexican-American adolescent females experience parenthood at proportionately higher rates than urban populations (Ely, Driscoll, & Mathews, 2017;

Hamilton, Martin, Osterman, Curtin & Mathews, 2015; Martin, Hamilton, Osterman, et al., 2017; Stewart & Kaye, 2013), as well as a lack of access to health care including sexual health promotion (Stacciarini, Smith, Garvan, Wiens, & Cottler, 2015).

Romantic partner relationships have implications for sexual health interventions (Goins, Markey, & Gillen, 2012), identifying the need for an understanding of romantic relationships among rural Mexican-American adolescent females for sexual health promotion. Although explored among other populations, this understanding is lacking yet necessary to provide culturally tailored sexual health programming. The current study addresses this gap among rural Mexican-American adolescents.

Culture plays an important role in romantic relationships and thus sexual health for rural Mexican-American adolescent females (Cianelli, & Villegas, 2016). Hispanic culture has been described as maintaining some traditions and values that facilitate a dependent social position for women. Gimenez-Garcia and colleagues (2016) found among Hispanic women, that those socialized in a context with more gender inequality, revealed a greater sexual risk profile than those socialized in a more gender-equal context. In particular, Hispanic women in steady relationships perceived lower risk for HIV due to their perceptions of romantic love (Lara, Cianelli, & Ferrer, 2008). Gimenez-Garcia et al., (2018) also found Hispanic women reported higher sexual risk in a steady partner relationship. The authors speculated these findings related to the traditional role of Hispanic women as well as perspectives of romantic love that may promote more dependence on a partner thereby increasing risk.

Culturally tailored sexual health interventions for reduction of health disparities that rural Mexican-American adolescent females experience including limited sexual health care access and disproportionately high rates of sexual risk and parenthood are urgent. The purpose of this study is to explore romantic relationships for rural Mexican American female adolescents to develop an understanding of these relationships for culturally tailored sexual health promotion.

Methods

We utilized a qualitative approach using summative content analysis as described by Hsieh and Shannon (2005) to develop a preliminary understanding of romantic relationships among rural Mexican-American adolescent females. We selected summative analysis as it handles both concise and extensive texts. It also enables researchers to work with widely differing population groups. The method is flexible and inclusive of a range of narratives, and encourages co-researchers to review data that as individuals they might consider too complex. Summative analysis lends itself to an accommodation of difference, difficulty, and dissimulation as opposed to similarity, ease of handling, and togetherness. It retains the richness and variety of different people's views and voices while deferring to group opinion to direct the analysis. It involves participatory group analysis and works with knowledge that is cumulative, whereby co-researchers come to "know" the data intimately, by participating in in-depth discussion and debate thereby contributing to trustworthiness of the analysis (Rapport, 2010).

We obtained Institutional Review Board approval. A rural health clinic located in the Southwestern United States near the Mexico border was the site for recruitment of a convenience sample of adolescent Mexican-American females for our study. Study inclusion criteria was female, aged 13–18 years who were English speaking, self-identified as of Mexican-American ethnicity and currently resided in the same rural area served by the rural health clinic. We recruited potential participants who were accessing routine or episodic health services at the rural health clinic. Clinic personnel provided information about the study to potential participants or parents/guardians as indicated. Those who were interested in the study provided a phone number for research personnel to contact them about the study. We obtained study assent and consent from adolescents and parents/guardians. We did not obtain parental consent from adolescents who were parents and seeking health care for themselves or their children. We interviewed all research participants in English at the rural health clinic in a private room, following obtainment of informed consent or assent as indicated for each participant. Self-report questionnaires, written in English, concerning socio-demographics including education, income, body mass index as defined by the Centers for Disease Control (2011), sexual behavior and romantic relationship status were administered by investigators. Sexual behavior assessment included age of onset of sexual activity, sexual preference, current sexual activity, pregnancy history and number of sexual partners. Following completion of socio-demographic questions, participants responded to four open ended questions about “romantic relationships.” The first two questions concerned what participants believed romantic partners desired from one another. Participants responded to (1) “What do women want from men?” and (2) “What do men want from women?” Participants were then asked two other questions concerning (3) “What do you want from a man?” and (4) “What do you think a man wants from you?” These questions intended to elicit an understanding of romantic relationships among rural Mexican-American adolescent females. Participants were compensated \$25.00 each for participation in the study.

Analyses

Socio-demographics were analyzed using SPSS 24.0 software for descriptive analyses including frequencies, t-tests and Chi-square analyses. Socio-demographic group comparisons included participants who reported having sex and those who never had sex.

Responses to open-ended questions were analyzed using summative content analysis as described by Hsieh and Shannon (2005). A summative content analysis involves counting and comparisons, usually of keywords or content, followed by the interpretation of the underlying context (Rapport, 2010). These analyses followed this process. We initially read the open-ended responses multiple times to gain a sense of meaning and used text data to identify codes and broad categories. Next, examination of open-coded categories led to identification of the consistent use of key words by participants when they explained what they perceived women wanted from romantic partners, what romantic partners wanted from women, what a man wants from women in general and from them specifically. Key words identified via these analyses included: looks, caring, honesty, hardworking, relationship, treats me, financial support, treats others. We counted the frequency of use of these key words by each participant. Comparison between those who reported ever having had sex and

those who reported never having sex were completed. These key words, examined by category, were interpreted for meaning. Use of these key words helped to consolidate coding categories, aided in the broader interpretation of how participants perceived romantic relationship, and facilitated elucidation of the final coding structure.

Results

Results of descriptive analyses of socio-demographics are in Table 1. Eighty-two adolescent females with a mean age of 16.27 (1.94 SD), participated in the study. All participants were English speaking. Only English was spoken by 32.9% followed by combinations of English/Spanish (64.6%). The majority (62.2%) reported previous sexual activity. All who were previously sexually active reported having had sex with men; of these, 11.8% ever had sex with both men and women. Reported sexual preference among those who were sexually active was heterosexual (90.2%) and bisexual (5.9%) or gay (3.9%). Among those who were never previously sexually active, sexual preference reported was heterosexual (93.5%), bisexual (3.2%), or gay (3.2%). Average age at first sex among those who were previously sexually active was 15.06 years while average age of current partner was 18.82 years. One partner (68.6%) or two or more (27.5%) partners in the past year was reported by sexually active participants. Previous pregnancy among sexually active participants was 23.5%. The majority who were never sexually active were not currently involved in a relationship (74.0%) as compared to more sexually active participants who were involved in a relationship (82.4%). Most sexually active participants were dating one person exclusively (66.7%) while fewer of those never sexually active reported an exclusive dating relationship (22.6%). Income from WIC and TANF was higher among sexually active participants. Boyfriends and child support provided supplemental income for those who were sexually active. Overall, most participants lived with parents (82.6%) however fewer sexually active participants lived with parents (76.5%) and instead lived with partners (9.8%). Most participants either were in school or had graduated. More sexually active participants had graduated while more of those who were never sexually active were still in school; equal numbers of both of these groups had dropped out of school. Overweight (24.4%) or obese (32.9%) status was present for most participants (57.3%). More of those who were sexually active were overweight or obese (60.8%) compared to those who were never sexually active (51.6%).

Perceptions of what romantic partners want from each other

We identified two main categories from open-ended responses. These categories included (1) personal characteristics and (2) relationship characteristics. Five subcategories described for personal characteristics included (a) physical characteristics, (b) psychosocial characteristics, (c) integrity, (d) work and (e) education. Subcategories identified for relationship characteristics included (a) support, (b) treats me and (c) treats others.

Personal characteristics—Personal characteristics were attributes of partners described independently of interactions in the relationship. Subcategories identified included physical characteristics, psychosocial characteristics, integrity, work and education. Participants spoke about what they wanted from partners and what partners wanted from them.

Participants also shared what they generally thought women and men wanted from each other.

Physical characteristics were a subcategory. Terms identified in this subcategory, included looks, appearance, keep up hygiene, athletic build, good body, semi tall, good looking, and eyes/smile. Physical characteristics were the second most often mentioned category and integrity the fourth most often mentioned category for both what participants believed women wanted from men and men from women.

Psychosocial characteristics were a subcategory. Examples of psychosocial characteristics include terms: good personality, nice, sweet, caring, good sense of humor, who they are, committed to relationship, good guy, smart, good head on his shoulders and understanding. Psychosocial characteristics were mentioned most frequently as what participants believed women in general wanted from men. Participants mentioned psychosocial characteristic less often as what they believed men in general wanted from women.

Integrity was a subcategory. Examples of integrity include terms: respect, honesty, trustworthy, faithfulness. Integrity was the second most often mentioned characteristic for what participants wanted from men and what they thought men wanted from them. Integrity was mentioned fourth most often for what participants thought women wanted from men and men from women.

Work and education were characteristics women wanted from men but were not something men wanted from women. Examples of work included: have a good, stable job, hard-working, good work ethic. Examples of education include the term 'education'. Food was mentioned by one participant as something men wanted from women. The term 'food' did not fit any categories. Not knowing what women wanted from men was the third most common category. Not knowing was the most common category for what men wanted from women.

Personal characteristics by report of sexual history

Differences in categories were evident by reported sexual history. Categorizations of what women want from men by those who had sex include psychosocial characteristics (37.2%), physical characteristics (29.4%), integrity (18%), work (18%), do not know (10%), and education (4%). Categorizations by those never having sex include psychosocial characteristics (39%), physical characteristics (26%), do not know (26%), integrity (10%), work (3.2%) and education (3.2%). Those who never had sex mentioned integrity less frequently.

Categorizations of what men wanted from women by those having sex included do not know (16%), physical characteristics (12%), integrity (8%), psychosocial characteristics (2%) and food (2%). Those who never had sex most often reported not knowing what men wanted from women (26%), followed by physical characteristics (19.4%), and psychosocial characteristics (10%); integrity and food were not mentioned (Table 2).

Personal characteristics women and participants wanted overall

Terms used to describe what participants wanted from men were from the psychosocial subcategory followed by integrity, physical characteristics, work and do not know. These categories again differed by whether or not participants reported having had sex. Participants who had sex wanted psychosocial characteristics (82%), integrity (33.3%), physical characteristics (18%) and work (10%). Those never having sex wanted psychosocial characteristics (69%), integrity (16.1%) and physical characteristics (7%); they did not mention work.

Personal characteristics men wanted from women in general and them in particular

Regarding what men want from women, the response “do not know” was the subcategory mentioned most frequently, followed by integrity, physical characteristics and psychosocial characteristics. Comparisons by sexual history found those who had sex, most frequently did not know what men wanted from them, followed by integrity and physical characteristics. They did not report psychosocial characteristics as something men wanted from them. Those who never had sex most often indicated they did not know what men wanted from them (52%), followed by psychosocial characteristics (10%) and integrity (7%). They did not mention physical characteristics as something men wanted from them (Table 2).

Relationship characteristics

Relationship characteristics were another way participants described what men in general wanted from women and from them. Subcategories included (a) support, (b) treats me treats him, (c) treats others and (d) sex. Examples of support included the terms financial support, provider, emotional support, listens, to be there for them, can depend on him if she needed it has car, has phone, support his decisions. A second subcategory included how a partner treats them. This subcategory included the terms how he makes her feel, treats her right, respect for partner, protection, take care of her, sweep her off her feet, make her happy, love, comfort, cares for her, won't hurt her feelings, can relate to her, be there for her, take care of her/physically and mentally, and fun to be around. The subcategory ‘treats him’ includes the terms: accept them for who they are, friendship, companionship, relationship, talk to him, take care of the household, someone she can relate to, take care of him, treat him right, love, respect each other, have fun, keep him in a good mood, and keep him happy. The subcategory about how men and partners ‘treats others’ include the terms: treats family, respect her parents, respectful to others, treats kids, how they are with people. The final subcategory of the relationship category was ‘sex’. The only term used by participants for this subcategory was the term ‘sex’.

Relationship characteristics by report of sexual history

Relationship characteristics participants believed women generally wanted from men included how he treated her, support, and how he treated others. Physical attraction and sex was something that women wanted from men. Men generally wanted sex followed by being treated a certain way. Support was something men wanted from women in general as well. Characteristics of what women wanted from men were different based on sexual history. Participants who had sex reported women generally wanted support from men (24%),

followed by being treated a certain way (20%), and how men treated others (7.8%). One of these participants indicated men wanted physical attraction. No one who had sex indicated sex was something women wanted from men in general. Participants who never had sex indicated women wanted to be treated a certain way (35.4%), followed by support (10%) and treating others a certain way (3.2%). Sex was something women wanted from men according to one participant. Those never having sex did not report physical attraction as something women wanted.

Relationship characteristics men wanted from women and participants

Men in general wanted sex followed by being treated in a certain way. One participant indicated men wanted support. Participants who had sex previously indicated most frequently that men wanted sex from women (61%) followed by wanting to be treated a certain way (2%). Participants never having sex indicated men generally wanted sex from women (45.1%) followed by how women treated him (10%). Support was not something participants who had sex believed men wanted from women; however, one participant who never had sex indicated men did want support from women (Table 3).

Relationship characteristics women and participants wanted overall

Relationship characteristics participants wanted from men included terms describing how he treated her, support, and how he treated others. Participants reported men wanted sex, wanted to be treated a certain way, and wanted support from her. How she treated others was not mentioned as something men wanted from her. Participants indicated what they specifically wanted from a man concerned how he treated her. This was important for those who previously had sex (43.1%) or did not (52%). Support was also something both groups wanted from men (12% and 13%). The final subcategory mentioned by both was about how men treated others (12% and 3.2%). All participants, again whether or not they previously had sex, reported men wanted sex from them (35.2% and 19.3%), followed by her treating him in a certain way (25.4% and 13%) and support (2% and 3.2%) (Table 3).

Discussion

This study provides a preliminary understanding of female adolescents' perceptions of romantic relationships, specifically for a rural, Mexican-American population. Responses to questions regarding their perceptions of what women want from men and men from women in general as well as what women wanted from men and what men wanted from them appear to be consistent with developmental norms. Our findings indicate that perceptions these adolescents have concerning male partners preference for physical attractiveness can have an impact on initiation of sexual activity and perceptions of attractiveness.

Adolescent females in this study described sex as the most important thing that male partners wanted from them and other women; this did not vary by ever or never sexually active. These women indicated that physical attributes are an important part of what male and female partners want from one another. Men and women prioritized sex and physical appearance according to these young women. These findings are consistent with others indicating that physical attractiveness increases likelihood of engagement in sexual activity

(Wolf, Morrell, & Halpern-Felsher, 2013). Women appeared to prioritize other relational and personal characteristics such as integrity, and partner treatment of self and others for their own relationships. Prioritization for relational and personal characteristics among participants' relationships may be consistent with the influence of peer norms. Adolescent women can be more resistant to peer influence regarding sexual activity than adolescent men (Widman, Choukas-Bradley, Helms, & Prinstein, 2016).

Peer norms and perceived social rewards may explain the overarching perception that males prioritized sex. Widman et al. (2016) found that both male and female participants who perceived social status rewards due to engaging in sexual activity showed greater conformity to perception of peer norms. O'Donnell, Myint-U, O'Donnell, & Stueve (2003) noted greater likelihood to have engaged in sexual activity among minority urban adolescents who perceived positive expectations of sex.

Wolf et al. (2013) found female adolescents who were sexually active endorsed maturity, commitment, trust, love, and marriage for sexual relationships. Participants in the current study responded similarly, indicating that how a partner treats her was a priority for those who had sex previously (43.1%) as well as those who never had sex (52%).

Commitment has been found to be an element that female adolescents use as part of a decision making process for romantic relationships (Michels, Kropp, Eyre, & Halpern-Felsher, 2005). Participants in our study indicated commitment to the relationship was an important characteristic they wanted in their partners. Additionally, participants mentioned wanting partners to have an education; however, participants did not indicate education as something men wanted them to have.

Weber & Ruch (2012) identified honesty, humor, and love as the three main character strengths of romantic partners among adolescents. Participants in the current study indicated similar preferences, reporting psychosocial characteristics that include terms such as humor most often, followed by integrity.

Evidence suggests a relationship between romantic relationships and body weight (Akers et al., 2009; Carriere & Kluck, 2014; Goldsmith & Byers, 2016; Halpern, King, Oslak, & Udry, 2005; McArthur, Holbert, & Peña, 2005). The prevalence of obesity amongst Mexican-American adolescents has doubled over the last twenty years particularly among rural populations (Jones-Matre et al., 2008; Ogden & Carroll, 2010). Obesity/overweight status was prominent among rural Mexican-American adolescent females included in our study and higher among those who were sexually active. Fewer of those who had not initiated sexual activity in this study experienced overweight/obesity. Lower body weight was present prior to initiation of sexual activity among adolescents in our study potentially contributing toward physical attractiveness in seeking romantic partner relationships. Following initiation of sexual activity and engagement in potentially long-term romantic relationships, BMI among adolescent in our study increased. This finding substantiates previous work (Markey & Markey, 2006; The & Gordon-Larsen (2009).

Adolescent pregnancy associated weight gain (Walker, Cheng, & Brown, 2014) may contribute to this phenomenon as one of four in our study who were sexually active

experienced a pregnancy. This finding may also relate to initiation of contraception for prevention of unintended pregnancy within these romantic relationships. Romantic relationships did not include descriptions of partners as parents. However, approximately one fourth of adolescents in our study had been pregnant or were currently parenting children. Stigma concerning adolescent pregnancy and absence of parental involvement may relate to this finding (Recto, & Champion, 2018).

Limitations

Convenience sampling used in this study occurred within one rural health clinic setting. Questions included in the study relate to rural Mexican-American adolescent female's perceptions of what they believe men and women want from relationships (i.e. what do you look for in a man or what does a man looks for in you). These qualitative findings apply differentially to female adolescents who report ever previously having sexual relationships versus those who never have had a sexual relationship. Of those who reported ever previously having any sexual relationships, all of these participants previously had sex with men regardless of reported sexual preference. All of those who never had sex reported sexual preference as heterosexual with the exception of one participant who reported bisexual and one who reported gay sexual preference. Collectively, these limitations decrease generalizability of findings however provide an inclusive basis for further exploration.

Practice Implications

Findings of high levels of engagement in sexual activity existed among rural Mexican American adolescent females describing romantic relationships in our study. Those who were sexually active as well as those who were not overwhelmingly reported sex as what men want from them and other women. Females however prioritized other relational and personal characteristics such as integrity, and partner treatment of self and others. Sexual health interventions focusing on communication, perceived sex roles, sexual preference, personal empowerment and mutual decision-making are essential components. Optimally, these interventions would include both partners in a romantic relationship.

Physical attractiveness was an important characteristic for females in development of romantic relationships. Discussion of romantic relationships with female adolescents who are and are not sexually active would facilitate an understanding of cultural norms associated with pregnancy as sequelae of adolescent romantic relationships. Perceptions of unattractiveness due to obesity following adolescent pregnancy may contribute to dissolution of romantic relationships and limited male involvement in parental roles. This lack of parental involvement may explain limited description of parental roles as a component of romantic relationships. Addressing adolescent romantic relationships with emphasis on what both male and female adolescents want from romantic relationships and long-term outcomes of these relationships may enhance adolescent sexual health among rural Mexican-American adolescent populations

Conclusions

This study addresses a gap in the literature by providing an initial understanding of perceptions of romantic relationships for rural Mexican American female adolescents. This description of romantic relationships informs sexual health promotion from a female perspective. Addressing adolescent romantic relationships with emphasis on what male and female adolescents want from relationships, long-term outcomes of relationships and emphasis on parental roles may enhance adolescent sexual health among rural Mexican-American adolescent populations

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Table 1.

Socio-demographics

Variable	SEX N=51 62.2% N (%)	NO SEX N=31 37.8% N (%)	TOTAL N=82 100% N (%)
Sociodemographic Characteristics			
Sexual preference			
Heterosexual	46 (90.2)	29 (93.5)	75 (91.5)
Bisexual	3 (5.9)	1 (3.2)	4 (4.9)
Homosexual/gay	2 (3.9)	1 (3.2)	3 (3.7)
Mean age in years (S.D.)	17.16 (1.55)	14.81 (1.6)	16.27 (1.94)
Average BMI (S.D.)	28.6 (7.77)	26.96 (6.21)	28.07 (7.30)
healthy	18 (35.3)	9 (29)	27 (32.9)
overweight	13 (25.5)	7 (22.6)	20 (24.4)
obese	18 (35.3)	9 (29)	27 (32.9)
Language preference at home			
Only English	17 (33.3)	10 (32.3)	27 (32.9)
More English	16 (31.4)	11 (35.5)	27 (32.9)
More Spanish	2 (3.9)	0 (0)	2 (2.4)
Both equally	16 (31.4)	10 (32.3)	26 (31.7)
Financial resources			
Receives WIC	12 (23.5)	2 (6.5)	14 (17.1)
Receives TANF	20 (39.2)	4 (12.9)	24 (29.3)
Receives boyfriend's wages	10 (19.6)	0 (0)	10 (12.2)
Receives child support	17 (33.3)	5 (16.1)	22 (26.8)
Living arrangement			
Lives with a boyfriend or husband	5 (9.8)	0 (0)	5 (6.1)
Lives with parents	39 (76.5)	29 (93.5)	68 (82.9)
School			
Enrolled in School	38 (74.5)	29 (93.5)	67 (81.7)
Graduated from high school	10 (19.6)	2 (6.5)	12 (14.6)
Dropped out of high school or other	2 (3.9)	0 (0)	2 (2.4)
Current relationship status			
Not currently involved with anyone	9 (17.6)	23 (74)	32 (39)
Dating more than one person	1 (2.0)	1 (3.2)	2 (2.4)
Engaged	3 (5.9)	0 (0)	3 (3.7)
Dating one person exclusively	34 (66.7)	7 (22.6)	41 (50)
Living with someone	4 (7.8)	0 (0)	4 (4.9)
Sexual/Reproductive Health History			
Ever pregnant	12 (23.5)	0 (0)	12 (14.6)

Variable	SEX N=51 62.2% N (%)	NO SEX N=31 37.8% N (%)	TOTAL N=82 100% N (%)
Ever had sex with a man	51 (100)	0 (0)	51 (62.2)
Age in years of first sex with a man (S.D.)	15.06 (1.57)	0 (0)	15.06 (1.57)
Age in years of current sexual partner (S.D.)	18.82 (1.93)	0 (0)	18.82 (1.93)
Ever had sex with a woman	6 (11.8)	1 (3.2)	7 (8.5)
Number of partners in the last year			
0	0 (0)	31 (100)	31 (38.8)
1	35 (68.6)	0 (0)	35 (43.8)
2+	14 (27.5)	0 (0)	14 (17.6)
Length of time seeing latest partner			
Less than 3 months	5 (9.8)	0 (0)	5 (6.1)
3 to 6 months	3 (5.8)	2 (6.4)	5 (6.1)
> 6 months to one year	7 (13.7)	0 (0)	7 (8.5)
> 1 year	27 (52.9)	0 (0)	27 (32.9)
Do not know	7 (13.7)	1 (3.2)	8 (9.8)
No Partner	2 (3.9)	28 (90.3)	30 (36.8)

Table 2.

Personal characteristics: What do women and men want from a partner?

Personal characteristics: what women and men generally wanted from a partner			
Women wanted from men (number of times a concept from the subcategory was reported)	Breakdown by sex / no sex (number of participants who mentioned the concept) (% of those in the subcategory who mentioned the concept)	Men wanted from women (number of times a concept from the subcategory was reported)	Breakdown by sex / no sex (number of participants who mentioned the concept) (% of those in the subcategory who mentioned the concept)
<i>Psychosocial characteristics</i> (31)	Had sex (19) (37.2%) Had not had sex (12) (39%)	<i>Do not know</i> (16)	Had sex (8) (16%) Had not had sex (8) (26%)
<i>Physical characteristics</i> (23)	Had sex (15) (29.4%) Had not had sex (8) (26%)	<i>Physical characteristics</i> (12)	Had sex (6) (12%) Had not had sex (6) (19.4%)
<i>Do not know</i> (16)	Had sex (8) (10%) Had not had sex (8) (26%)	<i>Psychosocial characteristics</i> (4)	Had sex (1) (2%) Had not had sex (3) (10%)
<i>Integrity</i> (12)	Had sex (9) (18%) Had not had sex (3) (10%)	<i>Integrity</i> (4)	Had sex (4) (8%) Had not had sex (not mentioned)
<i>Work</i> (8)	Had sex (9) (18%) Had not had sex (1) (3.2%)	<i>Food</i> (1)	Had sex (1) (2%) Had not had sex (not mentioned)
<i>Education</i> (3)	Had sex (2) (4%) Had not had sex (1) (3.2%)		

Personal characteristics: what she specifically wanted from a partner and he wanted from her			
What she wanted from men (number of times a concept from the subcategory was reported)	Breakdown by sex / no sex (number of participants who mentioned the concept) (% of those in the subcategory who mentioned the concept)	What men wanted from her (number of times a concept from the subcategory was reported)	Breakdown by sex / no sex (number of participants who mentioned the concept) (% of those in the subcategory who mentioned the concept)
Psychosocial characteristics: (76)	Had sex (41) (82%) Had not had sex (35) (69%)	Do not know (33)	Had sex (17) (33.3%) Had not had sex (16) (52%)
Integrity: (22)	Had sex (17) (33.3%) Had not had sex (5) (16.1%)	Integrity (8)	Had sex (6) (12%) Had not had sex (2) (7%)
Physical characteristics: (11)	Had sex (9) (18%) Had not had sex (2) (7%)	Physical characteristics (3)	Had sex (3) (6%) Had not had sex (not mentioned)
Work: (5)	Had sex (5) (10%) Had not had sex (not mentioned)	Psychosocial characteristics (3)	Had sex (not mentioned) Had not had sex (3) (10%)
Do not know (5)	Had sex (1) (2%) Had not had sex (4) (1.3%)		

Table 3.

Relationship characteristics: What do women and men want from a partner?

Relationship characteristics: what women and men wanted from a partner			
Women wanted from men (number of times a concept from the subcategory was reported)	Breakdown by sex / no sex (number of participants who mentioned the concept) (% of those in the subcategory who mentioned the concept)	Men wanted from women (number of times a concept from the subcategory was reported)	Breakdown by sex / no sex (number of participants who mentioned the concept) (% of those in the subcategory who mentioned the concept)
Treats her (21)	Had sex (10) (20%) Had not had sex (11) (35.4%)	Sex (45)	Had sex (31) (61%) Had not had sex (14) (45.1%)
Support (15)	Had sex (12) (24%) Had not had sex (3) (10%)	Treats him (14)	Had sex (11) (2%) Had not had sex (3) (10%)
Treats others (5)	Had sex (4) (7.8%) Had not had sex (1) (3.2%)	Support (1)	Had sex (not mentioned) Had not had sex (1) (3.2%)
Physical attraction (1)	Had sex (1) (2%) Had not had sex (not mentioned)		
Sex (1)	Had sex (not mentioned) Had not had sex (1) (3.2%)		

Relationship characteristics: what she specifically wanted from a man and him from her			
What she wanted from men (number of times a concept from the subcategory was reported)	Breakdown by sex / no sex (number of participants who mentioned the concept) (% of those in the subcategory who mentioned the concept)	What men wanted from her (number of times a concept from the subcategory was reported)	Breakdown by sex / no sex (number of participants who mentioned the concept) (% of those in the subcategory who mentioned the concept)
Treats me (38)	Had sex (22) (43.1%) Had not had sex (16) (52%)	Sex (24)	Had sex (18) (35.2%) Had not had sex (6) (19.3%)
Support (10)	Had sex (6) (12%) Had not had sex (4) (13%)	Tats him (17)	Had sex (13) (25.4%) Had not had sex (4) (13%)
Treats others (7)	Had sex (6) (12%) Had not had sex (1) (3.2%)	Support (2)	Had sex (1) (2%) Had not had sex (1) (3.2%)