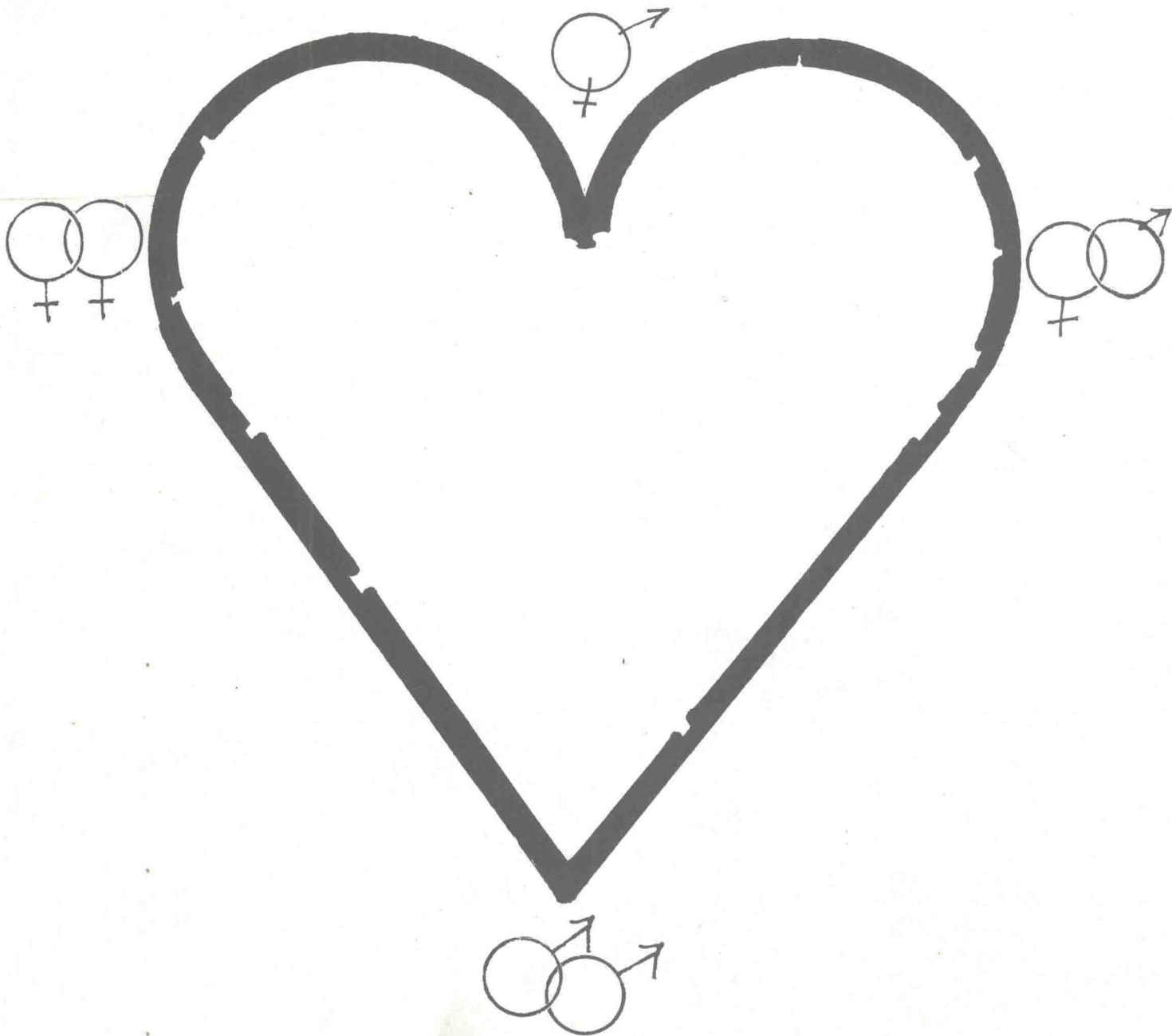


# ALTERNATE SEXUAL LIFESTYLES: CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN HUMAN SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

Edited by  
Lawrence Simkins



# ALTERNATE SEXUAL LIFESTYLES: CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN HUMAN SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

Fourth Edition

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# Preface to the Third Edition

This text has now been used for four years in my classes on Alternate Sexual Lifestyles. As a result of student feedback and changes concerning issues in human sexuality, I have deleted some articles which have become outdated and replaced them with articles that have more contemporary relevance. I have continued to select articles which I felt may have a wide appeal. As in previous editions, this text represents an effort to incorporate under one cover a collection of articles that have appeared in diverse sources. It is hoped that the student may be able to understand and perhaps develop empathy with people whose sexual lifestyles may not conform with their own and to become knowledgeable of some of the contemporary research on sexual issues that impact on society as well as perhaps their personal lives.

Lawrence Simkins

# Preface to the First Edition

In the process of teaching the basic course in human sexual behavior I found that there was so much to be covered that it became necessary to either skip over certain materials or else provide only very brief discussion of them. A number of these topics do not receive detailed discussion in the typical text used in the basic human sexual behavior course. Examples of such topics included homosexuality, transsexuality, the paraphilias, child incest and abuse and certain sub-areas of sexual coercion such as spouse rape, acquaintance or date rape and sexual harassment. Consequently I developed a new course entitled Alternate Sexual Lifestyles/Contemporary Issues in Human Sexuality to provide interested students a follow-up to the more basic sexual course.

Although there is much material available on all these topics, it appears in widely diverse sources. There is no one text available that deals specifically with the material covered in this course. In compiling the reading selections for this text I used as criteria (1) articles that seemed the most relevant, (2) were factually correct, (3) were written in a style that would be the most interesting to the students. Regretfully, there were many more articles that met these criteria but which could not be included because of the publication expense of a limited edition textbook. Although the topics selected may be considered to have a more narrow scope than most human sexuality reading texts, nevertheless this book might still be considered as a supplement to the basic text in the introductory human sexual behavior course.

Lawrence Simkins

# Preface to the Fourth Edition

This revision has been updated by deleting outdated articles and including more contemporary ones. For example, recent research has continued to suggest the possibility that homosexuality may be biologically or genetically determined. Articles substantiating that position have now been included. However, the major revision change appears in the third unit. Whereas previous editions included topics such as teenage pregnancy, sexual coercion and child sex abuse and incest, the current edition is solely devoted to child sex abuse. There continues to be a large number of reported cases of child sex abuse conservatively estimated at 300,000 per year. Research on this subject is now proliferating at an exponential rate. Indeed a new publication, the Journal of Child Sex Abuse, has appeared since the third edition of this text. Recently there have been many issues which have evolved from this area which not only impact various segments of our lay society, but also involve the expertise of a number of professionals from a variety of disciplines I felt that child sex abuse has emerged as an area of sufficient importance to justify exclusive consideration in the unit on contemporary issues in human sexuality. In addition, people who perpetrate child sexual abuse are clearly engaged in an alternate sexual lifestyle. The factors predisposing one to turn to such a lifestyle, the impact sexual abuse has upon the development of young children in the family, and the consequences for later adulthood are all issues that need to be examined. Articles have been selected that bear on some of these issues. As in previous editions, articles have been included that I felt had both educational value and were thought-provoking. I hope this same goal has been achieved in the current edition.

Lawrence Simkins

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# **PART I—ALTERNATE SEXUAL LIFESTYLES**

## **Unit 1: Alternate Heterosexual Lifestyles**

As late as the 1960s the time honored institution of marriage and the subsequent bearing of children was the expected norm of our society. The husband/father was responsible for providing the family with economic security and the wife/mother was expected to tend to household chores, raise the children and be the main provider of nurturant support. When you married it was expected to be a lifelong commitment. Currently marriage is still the most prevalent relationship form. Nevertheless, within the past two decades there have been a number of technological developments and changes in social attitudes which have placed pressures on the traditional concept of marriage and which has precipitated forms of relationships that deviate from this traditional form.

Modern medical technology has increased our longevity. At the turn of the century you were expected to live until about age 50. If you married in your 20s that meant a marriage of approximately 30 years. Today the life expectancy is beyond the age of 70. The so-called lifelong commitment to the same partner has been substantially extended. It is somewhat unlikely that the interests and needs of the young couple at the age of 20 are going to remain the same for 50 years or that if change takes place that it will be at the same rate and in the same direction for both the man and the woman. Thus even under the most "strain-free" conditions it could be anticipated that the original pair bonding might weaken during a 50 year span. It is therefore not too surprising that in the recent past we have seen an escalating divorce rate with two out of three marriages doomed to failure.

At the turn of the century, if you moved at all it was within a five mile radius of your original home and your nuclear family or relatives. You had a close family support network. Divorce was frowned upon. Today we are a much more mobile society. Employment opportunities typically carry us thousands of miles away from our nuclear family. Many of us live in a state of "urban alienation" where we do not have the close family support of yesteryear. In some cases we don't even know the names of our next door neighbors. The social forces that helped to maintain the marital union are not there, consequently there is less resistance to divorce. There has also been a relaxation of the taboo status of divorce.

The 1960s heralded a medical discovery which revolutionized our sexual behavior - the pill. The emphasis shifted from sexual behavior as procreation-oriented to sexual behavior as recreation-oriented. Fear of pregnancy was no longer as important a consideration as it was in the past. In addition the milestone contributions of Kinsey in the late '40s combined with the contributions of Masters and Johnson in the '60s brought sexual behavior out of the closet. It was now possible to discuss sexual behavior, as well as sexual dysfunctions.

The AIDS epidemic which was and is upon us in the '90s has had the effect of stabilizing the divorce rate and reducing the frequency of casual sexual relationships. Nevertheless, there is a reduction in the number of people who are getting married and those who do marry are delaying marriage until their 30s and beyond. The article by Greeley, Michael and Smith reports on a national survey which shows that over 80% of Americans are monogamous.

Perhaps one of the major impacts of the sexual revolution was the effect that it had on the role of the sexual behavior of women. The work of Masters and Johnson demonstrated that women were biologically as sexually responsive as men and with their capacity for multiorgasms perhaps even more so. The birth control pill provided them with the potential for the same sexual freedom and opportunities as the male. In addition, women were either entering the labor force or pursuing professional careers of their own. The wife/mother was no longer economically dependent upon the husband. In fact, today in the majority of households there are dual incomes.

All of these movements have precipitated changes in our conception of the traditional marriage and the roles that are played. They have brought about an increase in the willingness to experiment with alternate sexual style and relationship forms.

Since the sexual revolution of the 1960s, the pendulum has swung back in a more conservative direction. Fear of herpes and the spread of AIDS to the heterosexual population has caused people to become more discriminating in their choice of sexual partners. Sexual permissiveness is still present but the singles bars and casual sex are no longer "in" things. This does not mean that there has necessarily been a reduction in premarital sex, but rather the focus now is on the development of intimacy and committed relationships. And within this movement lies a paradox. The quest for committed relationships is a high priority for most adults. Yet in this age of divorce, the rapid changes in the economy, the volatile tensions throughout the world and the large number of dysfunctional families, many people are afraid to trust, afraid to risk their vulnerability. These factors lay the basis for their fears of intimacy. A committed relationship may not be attainable. Carly Avery discusses some of the pitfalls in the establishment of intimacy in the age of divorce.

Instead of marriage some people have elected to cohabit. Are people who cohabit any different than people who get married? Much of the information we have regarding cohabitation is based on surveys conducted in college settings. Rank's study is different in that it is largely based on a non-university sample drawn from a moderate sized midwestern city. His study was concerned with determining to what extent a prior history of cohabitation did or did not ease the transition to marriage. Apparently the old adage, "You don't know a person until you have lived with them," appears to have limited bearing on how long the marriage lasted or the quality of the marriage. According to Rank's results, it would appear that factors such as the length of time getting to know one's partner, role expectations in the marriage, degree of autonomy-dependence and other relationship factors were more important than whether or not the couple cohabited before marriage.

We conclude this first unit with an examination of extramarital sexual relationships. Whereas over the past several decades there has been an increasing acceptance of premarital sexual relationships, the vast majority of Americans still disapprove of extramarital affairs. However,

there appears to be a sizeable discrepancy between expressed attitudes and behavior. Unfortunately, it is difficult to obtain reliable estimates of the incidence of extramarital activity since the results depend so heavily on the sample characteristics. The most conservative estimates indicate extramarital activity has not changed substantially since the Kinsey surveys which indicated that 50% of all husbands and 26% of all wives have been involved in an extramarital affair at some time during their marriage. A number of contemporary surveys would suggest that (1) there has been a substantial increase in the incidence of extramarital activity, and (2) the gender gap is beginning to close. The incidence of married women participating in extramarital activity is increasing at a faster rate than for males.

Adultery is discussed in the article by Masters, Johnson and Kolodny. They make the point that there is an innate deceit involved in extramarital relationships and if the affair is discovered by the uninvolved spouse there is a high risk that it will undermine the trust and intimacy of the marriage. The uninvolved spouse may be victimized in a number of ways including being emotionally sabotaged, perhaps exposed to the risk of sexually transmitted diseases and economic consequences in that family funds are diverted to support the activities of the philandering partner. While not condoning extramarital activities, the authors do indicate that not all extramarital sex is inherently destructive. In their discussion of various types of affairs Masters, Johnson and Kolodny indicate conditions under which there may be some positive benefits to extramarital activity.

# Americans and Their Sexual Partners

*Andrew M. Greeley, Robert T. Michael,  
and Tom W. Smith*

**I**n the absence of responsible social research about human behavior, poor research and media-generated folk lore become conventional wisdom. The assumptions of such conventional wisdom are seldom questioned and rarely tested. In few areas of human behavior is the power of conventional wisdom so pervasive as it is when the subject is sex. In matters of research on sexual behavior, as in other arenas, Gresham's Law applies – bad research seems to drive out good research. And there is good research on sexual behavior, as the recent lengthy and informative review by the National Research Council details. It is just less sensational than much of the poorer research, and thus less successful in shaping public perceptions about the facts pertaining to our sexual behavior. Perhaps Gresham's Law should be paraphrased in this context as: sensational findings (often the result of poor or superficial research) drive out carefully balanced and less sensational findings, at least from headlines and thus from public perception.

Bad research, like the self-selected reader surveys in popular magazines and non-random samples such as those gathered for the Hite Report, and the popular metaphor of a "sexual revolution" have created a conventional wisdom that "everyone knows" to be true: marital infidelity and sexual experimentation are widespread among Americans.

But if "monogamy" is defined as having no more than one sexual partner during the past year, research based on a scientifically sound national sample indicates that Americans are a most monogamous people. Only 14 percent of all adult Americans interviewed in a 1988 nationwide survey were not monogamous in this sense; and excluding those who were not sexually active, 18 percent were not monogamous. In only one major population group – young men – were a majority not monogamous.

Our study is based on a supplement to NORC's (the National Opinion Research Center) GSS

(General Social Survey) given during the winter of 1988 to about 1500 adults who were scientifically selected from a national probability frame of households in the United States. The questions about sexual behavior were included as a self-administered form during the face-to-face interview conducted in the respondent's home. The self-administered form was sealed by the respondent and returned, unopened by the interviewer, with the rest of the survey. This procedure reassured respondents that their answers were confidential and to be used only for statistical purposes such as this article. The response rate on the 1988 GSS was 77.3 percent, and 93.9 percent of those who responded did answer the questions about sexual behavior, well within the range of "item nonresponse" that is typical for a lengthy interview. There is no evidence in this survey that respondents felt the questions about sexual partners were particularly intrusive or inappropriate.

We use two definitions of monogamy. We report the percentage of sexually active people with one sexual partner (M1) and the percentage of all people with zero or one sexual partner (M2). In both definitions we exclude those few (6.1 percent) who did not answer the question. Each of the two definitions has some appeal as a measure of the tendency for adults to be monogamous, for the sexually inactive – those who report having no sexual partner within the past twelve months – can be considered in or out of the definition depending on its purpose. They are not monogamous in the social sense of being committed to a sexual relationship with a sole partner, but from the epidemiological standpoint of risks of contracting sexually transmitted diseases such as AIDS, they belong to the category of the monogamous. We caution that as our questionnaire asked the number of partners in the preceding twelve months, we cannot distinguish serial monogamy within the year from having two or more partners in the same interval of time. Our definitions of monogamy exclude persons

with more than one partner in a twelve-month period, serially or otherwise. Thus our definition of monogamy represents a lower bound estimate of its prevalence in this respect.

Table 1 shows the basic facts. These facts indicate that a vast majority of adults report monogamous behavior. Among all adults 86 percent were

monogamous (M2), while among the sexually active 82 percent were monogamous (M2). More women (90 percent) report being monogamous than men (81 percent). More older respondents report being monogamous than do younger ones with the monogamy rate rising from 61 percent among those under 25 to 96 percent and higher among those over

**Table 1**  
**Monogamy in the United States**  
(Percent of Sexually Active Persons with One Partner During Previous Twelve Months)

	M1 *	M2 *		M1 *	M2 *
All	82% (1072)	86% (1390)	Divorced	62% (125)	73% (178)
Gender **			Separated	78% (36)	81% (43)
Women	86% (568)	90% (793)	Never	52% (205)	64% (278)
Men	78% (504)	81% (597)	Race **		
Age **			Black	69% (144)	74% (170)
18-24	56% (144)	61% (163)	White	84% (889)	88% (1161)
25-29	77% (157)	79% (168)	Religion		
30-39	85% (283)	86% (308)	Protestant	83% (648)	87% (852)
40-49	86% (213)	88% (243)	Catholic	85% (281)	89% (364)
50-59	91% (96)	93% (132)	Region		
60-69	93% (119)	96% (194)	North East	82% (216)	86% (274)
70+	95% (59)	98% (180)	North Central	82% (288)	87% (382)
Education			South	82% (372)	86% (482)
Grammar	81% (70)	91% (146)	West	83% (196)	87% (252)
High	83% (504)	87% (644)	Size **		
College	81% (398)	84% (480)	12 SMSA	73% (202)	79% (265)
Graduate	84% (99)	86% (116)	Other SMSA	87% (353)	90% (440)
Marital Status **			Other Urb	82% (400)	86% (530)
Married	96% (672)	97% (740)	Rural	86% (117)	90% (155)
Widowed	71% (34)	93% (151)			

M1: Monogamy defined as having one partner, people with zero partners, and people who refused to answer are excluded from the sample.

M2: Monogamy defined as having zero or one partner, refusals are excluded.

\*\* Signifies that the percentage differences within this category are significant at the .01 level for M1 and M2. Numbers in parentheses indicate the size of the cell on which the percentage is based.

60. Whites (88 percent) have higher monogamy rates than blacks (74 percent), as do residents of smaller sized communities (90 percent) compared to those in large metropolitan areas (75 percent). There appears to be no appreciable difference between Protestants and Catholics or by region of residence in the United States. Marital status has a major influence, as would be expected, with a remarkably high percentage of married persons (97 percent) reporting monogamous behavior. Among sexually active formerly married people, monogamous behavior appears to be the norm as well. Rates of monogamy appear to vary little with educational level (the anomalous high monogamy rate for M2 in Table 1 reflects the large number

of elderly people with low levels of education, many of whom are widowed and have no sexual partner). It appears that sexual experimentation exists predominantly among the young and the nonmarried.

Age, gender, and marital status are powerful predictors of monogamy, as Table 2 suggests. The rates for monogamy are strikingly high for both married men and married women in all three age groups – over 90 percent of each group reported themselves monogamous.

For those who have a "regular" sexual partner, the rates of monogamy are decidedly lower, typically falling 25 percentage points for women under 50 and about 40 percentage points for men under 50. Other

**Table 2**  
**Rates of Monogamy Among the Sexually Active, by Gender, Age, and Type of Relationship**

<u>Women</u>			
Age	Married*	Regular Partner	No Regular Partner
< 30*	94% (80)	64% (70)	40% (15)
30-49*	100% (159)	74% (93)	50% (16)
50+*	97% (109)	91% (23)	67% (3)
Total	98% (348)	73% (186)	47% (34)
<u>Men</u>			
Age	Married	Regular Partner	No Regular Partner
< 30*	91% (44)	47% (62)	23% (30)
30-49*	95% (163)	55% (53)	42% (12)
50+*	96% (117)	75% (12)	45% (11)
Total	95% (324)	53% (127)	32% (53)

\* NB: Row percentages (by partnership for each age group) are statistically significant at the .01 level for all six groups; the column percentages (by age for a given partnership) are significant at the .01 level for only one group, married women.



research suggests that the half-life of a cohabitational union in the United States is only about one year, so if many of those reporting a regular partner are cohabiting, it is likely that they have been in that relationship for less than a full year. Their having more than one sexual partner within a year may cover a period different from that of the regular partnership they report. Many unmarried persons with a "regular" sexual partner may have no expectation about sexual exclusivity, so the lower rates of monogamy for these men and women may not indicate any infidelity.

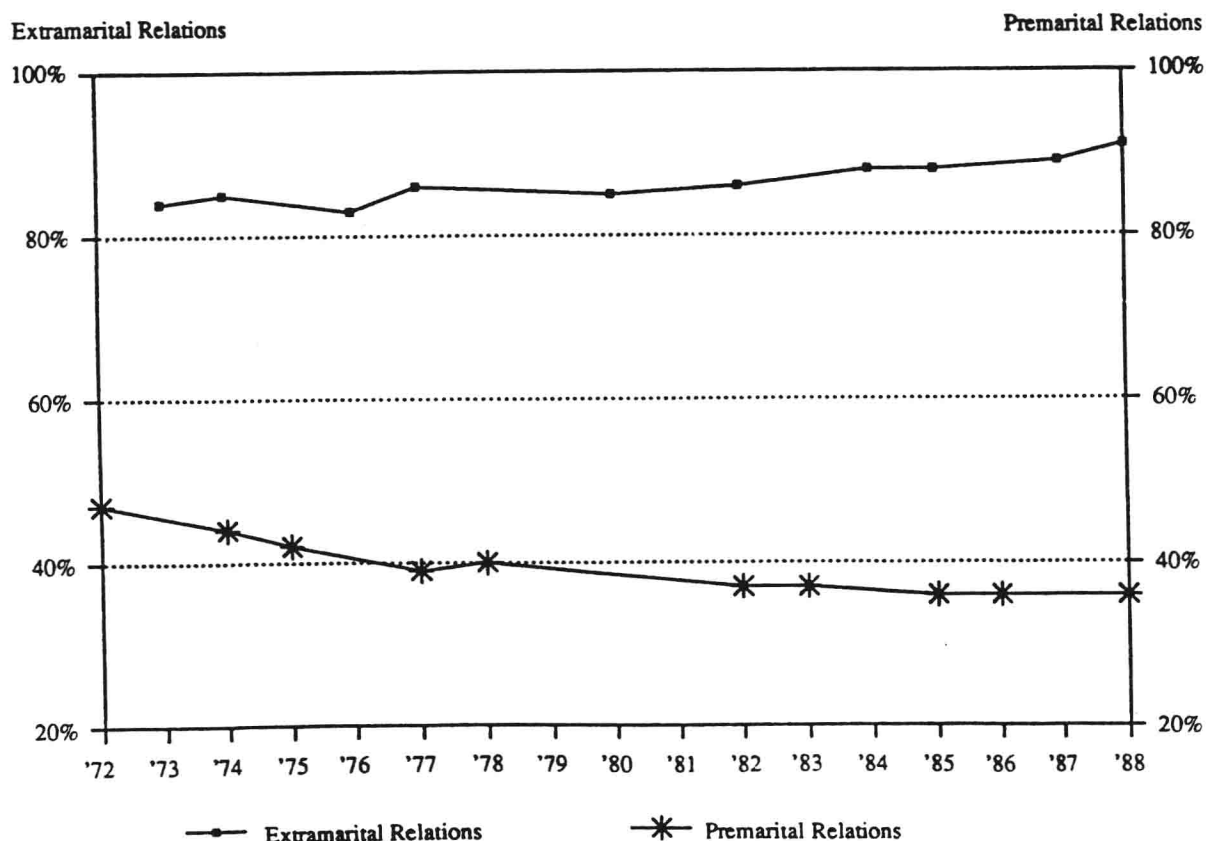
For those who reported having no regular sexual partner, the rates of monogamy – are much lower, about 50 percentage points for women and 60 percentage points for men. They range from 23 percent of the young men to 67 percent of the older women. The rates rise with age and are higher for women. Of the sexually active respondents in the survey who

were not married and had no regular sex partner, about one-third of the men and half of the women nonetheless reported only one partner within the year.

Even among the *nonmonogamous* sexual license is limited. Fifty-seven percent of these women and 32 percent of these men report only two sexual partners. Men, more than women, are likely to report having a large number of partners – and hence to be the primary targets for sexually transmitted diseases. (A quarter of the men who have more than one sexual partner report in fact that they have had at least five such partners and only 8 percent of women had five or more partners.) If we project to life cycle patterns from our cross sectional data, when young people marry or reach the age of thirty or so, a large majority adopt monogamy as their lifestyle.

To see which of these demographic variables had independent effects on monogamy we carried out multiple regression analysis on the M1 definition of

**Figure 1**  
**Attitude Toward Nonmarital Sexual Relations**  
**GSS Annual Survey 1972-1988**  
(Percent Saying Always or Almost Always Wrong)



monogamy. The regressions were run separately for men and for women. They indicate that older people are more likely to be monogamous, that black men (but not black women) are less likely to be monogamous, that those in large cities are less likely to be monogamous, and that compared to the married men and women, those with and those without a regular sex partner are far less likely to be monogamous. The regressions also included information on education level, religion, household age structure, and ethnicity (Hispanics), but none of these variables had any statistically discernible effect on the rate of monogamy.

It is interesting to note, too, that when we reran these regressions on only the persons who were married, there were no significant variables for the women, and only the race variable was significant for the men. That is, marriage is the dominant determinant of the monogamy rate, and within the married population, none of the other factors we looked at – education, city size, household composition, religion, age, (except for race for men) – had an influence that was statistically notable. Again, marital status is clearly the dominant determinant of the monogamy propensity in these data.

One issue that deserves attention, but which we doubtless cannot fully address, is whether the GSS respondents are telling the truth about their sexual behavior. Might they be lying about the number of their sexual partners? Two points can be made. Survey data from the United Kingdom in 1986 reported comparable proportions of the adult population with zero, one and two or more partners. The similarity of these two quite independent surveys provides some face validity for each. The experience of those who have undertaken surveys of sexual behavior is that respondents tend to be remarkably candid. Phrases like "the new permissiveness," "the playboy philosophy," and "open marriage" have become so fashionable and discussions of marital infidelity in popular journals are so commonplace that respondents might be inclined to exaggerate their sexual accomplishments to keep up with the "trends" rather than understate them. Also, if the respondents to the GSS are falsifying accounts of their sexual behavior because of mores which demand monogamy (a circumstance we do not think is the case), then at a minimum they are demonstrating that those mores still strongly support monogamy.

Are the monogamy rates described above "high" by standards of the recent past? Might the situation

of widespread monogamy described by our data reflect a response to the fears created by the AIDS epidemic? Does the high rate of monogamy represent a "retreat" from a previous state of "permissiveness" or "liberation"? Have fear and caution made sexual restraint popular?

As our data is only a snapshot about behavior in the past twelve months, it cannot help us determine directly if the fear of AIDS has affected sexual behavior. Finding that monogamy is relatively rare among young men who have never been married and who do not have a regular sexual partner does not inform us, for they might have had even more partners before they became aware of the AIDS danger.

One way our data might indirectly address this question is if we assume that knowing an AIDS victim inhibits sexual permissiveness. We can compare the sexual behavior of those who do know an AIDS victim with the behavior of those who do not know anyone with AIDS, and that can indicate the magnitude of the behavioral response. But those who do know a victim are significantly less likely to be monogamous. Among all adults 76 percent of those knowing an AIDS victim were monogamous, while 87 percent of those not knowing anyone with AIDS were monogamous. Even those who know an AIDS victim who has died are somewhat less likely to report themselves monogamous (70 percent) than those personally unaware of any AIDS fatalities (80 percent). The direction of causation here is probably that those who are not monogamous, and have a lifestyle that exposes them to greater risks of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, are acquainted with more people who are also at greater risk of contracting those diseases. So this line of inquiry is not revealing.

There is, however, no evidence in our data to support a hypothesis that the current high level of monogamy is the result of fear of AIDS. The demographic correlates of monogamy suggest that sexual behavior varies greatly by gender, age, and especially marital status; these powerful predictors may explain much more of the variation in sexual behavior than does fear of AIDS.

But what might the fear of AIDS have added to the levels of monogamy that had already existed among married people? If there were a more permissive attitude among married people towards infidelity five or ten years ago, how great was this permissiveness? Data from prior years of the General Social Survey (with independent national samples of adults) can inform us about how that attitude has changed over



the past 15 years. It suggests that norms against extramarital sex were strong even 15 years ago. Studying the trend in attitude toward marital infidelity in the annual GSS questionnaire since 1972, there has been a statistically significant increase in opposition to infidelity. There was an increase from 84 percent to 91 percent of the adult population saying that extramarital sex was always or almost always wrong, as Figure 1 indicates. This hardly indicates a dramatic increase in sexual restraint, especially since disapproval of extramarital sex was quite high in the early 1970s when the GSS was first conducted.

It is worth noting that this increase in opposition to extramarital sex has occurred at the same time as there has been a statistically significant increase in tolerance for premarital sex (an increase in tolerance from 53 percent to 64 percent). The notion that social change is always unidimensional and unidirectional rarely is sustained by empirical data. "Revolutions" in which there is uniformity unmarred by complexity usually exist only in newspaper articles and not in the real world.

Three independent national surveys provide data that enables us to gauge the impact of fear of AIDS on American monogamy. A CBS study in 1986 based on 823 cases reported that 11 percent of Americans said that they had changed their behavior because of AIDS. NBC studies conducted in 1986 and 1987 indicated that 7.3 and 7.4 percent, respectively, said they had modified their behavior.

These levels, when reported, were commonly seen as indicating that people were not reacting responsibly to the risks of AIDS, but our findings suggest another interpretation. If many fewer people were engaged in sexual behavior that was risky, it may be quite sensible that few altered their behavior. This is further supported by a 1987 Gallup survey in which 68 percent indicated that no change in their sexual behavior had been made because they did not need to change their behavior. We cannot be sure, and do not intend to be Pollyannas, but our findings that relatively few adults report having sex with many partners may be one reason only about 10 percent of adults report changing their behavior. Another cautionary note – we focus on only the number of partners, and there are several other dimensions of sexual behavior that one might change in response to the risks of AIDS (*e.g.*, care in the selection of partners, avoidance of high-risk sexual practices, use of condoms, *etc.*), and these are beyond the scope of our survey.

The details of the reported change in behavior motivated by fear of AIDS conform quite well to the details in the GSS tables reported above about which groups are most at risk: in the Gallup survey 7 percent of the married people and 22 percent of the never married reported a change of behavior; 10 percent of the whites and 22 percent of the blacks reported a change in behavior, as did 13 percent of the men and 9 percent of the women, 19 percent of those under 25 and 10 percent of those between 35 and 50. The changes for married people are compatible with the change in attitudes towards extramarital sex during the years Americans have been conscious of AIDS. So one can tentatively estimate that, even in the absence of AIDS, the monogamy rate for married men and women would not be less than 90 percent. For the whole population the rate, without the AIDS scare, might be between 75 percent and 80 percent. We note again the face validity here: those groups who report the lower monogamy rates in the GSS – men compared to women, nonmarried compared to married – are those who report in the Gallup survey the biggest change in behavior for fear of contracting AIDS.

The fear of AIDS may have increased monogamy especially among unmarried people and most especially if they are young, but the rates appear to us to have been quite high in any case. Despite the fear of AIDS the promiscuity rate among the young is still high, especially among young, unmarried men, with resultant dangers to themselves and their future partners.

### A Sexual Revolution?

Like all metaphors the phrase "sexual revolution" is apt for some dimensions of social behavior over the past couple decades, but by no means all of it. It might be useful to review a few changes in recent years in demographic features such as marriage and divorce as well as to speculate on how they might have affected the rate of monogamy in the United States as measured by our variables M1 and M2.

Consider the changes in marital status. The divorce rate in the United States (per 1000 married women) rose from 9.2 in 1960 to 14.9 in 1970, 22.6 in 1980, and then declined slightly to 21.5 in recent years. As a result, despite a rise in remarriage rates, the proportion of the adult population currently divorced also rose dramatically from 3.2 percent in 1970 to 7.8 percent in 1986. Divorced adults are much less likely to be monogamous than are married adults, so this trend probably has decreased the number of adults