

Relational Expectations of Cohabiting Couples compared to Married Couples

by

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ABSTRACT

Using data from a sample of 74 undergraduates (54% Women, 46% Men), I examine relational expectations held toward married and cohabiting couples, and how expectations vary for women and men. The hypotheses include: H₁ Cohabiting respondents will report higher expectations for cohabiting targets and married respondents will report higher expectations in the married targets; H₂ Women respondents will report higher expectations toward women and men targets than men report. The study design involved 474 students; with the criteria for selection of respondents, 400 respondents were omitted from analyses. The results indicate support for H₁ regarding relationship status in the case of physical expectations, and support for H₂ regarding respondent gender in the case of social/leisure expectations and verbal expectations.

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