

HOUSE OF MEN V. HOUSE OF WOMEN:
GENDER DOMINATION AND RELATIONAL ISSUES AMONG
HETEROSEXUAL COUPLES

BY

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I would like to dedicate this paper to anyone who has gone through a major diagnosis of illness, and was able to stay the course to finish the project.

First, I would like to thank my advisor, Dr. Ananda Mitra for guiding me through my Survey, IRB process, and for the patience and flexibility in working with me to complete this paper.

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ABSTRACT

This study attempted to determine whether gender dominance in a household created conflicts within future heterosexual relationships as to courtship, marriage, finances, and child rearing. 150 people responded from a pool of 450 to a ten-question survey.

Data was compiled from these responses to conclude that men and women from male dominated households had more conflict in future relationships. Women had less conflict in general, but when they did, those women were from male-dominant households.

A final interesting conclusion was that men made more decisions if from female-dominant households, and women from male-dominant household made more decisions. A strong majority of time, the opposite gender of the dominant decision-maker ended up being a strong decision-maker themselves as adults.

INTRODUCTION

My interest in gender roles was created by my parents and our family. I grew up in a household dominated by men, three to one, which acted out the common gender roles of the 1970's and 1980's. After my father was afflicted with a neurological health problem, I watched as the gender dynamics between my parents shifted when my mother took on more power. In the last twenty years, my parents adherence to the traditional gender roles of their own childhood has completely reversed. My mother is now the breadwinner while my father is now the volunteer and the coordinator of household chores.

Watching this phenomenon of gender role reversal became the rationale for my interest in studying gender roles and conflict among heterosexual couples. Seeing this unfold, I developed a theory that men from male-dominated households and women from female- dominated households struggle to understand the opposite gender as they enter into their future relationships.

DISCUSSION AND BACKGROUND

In my research study, I will focus on conflict in marriages or relationships with an emphasis on gender bias. I will specifically collect data, using a questionnaire, on gender dominance during upbringing, differentiation by generations to acknowledge relation to the evolving nature of women's empowerment. Conflict will be measured using Likert scales, involving three issues of prime relationship conflict—financial decision-making, parenting decisions, and household division of labor.

Background

From taking undergraduate courses in Psychology and teaching four years of Psychology on the high school level, I developed a strong interest in gender differences. It is the simplest difference in human beings: X-chromosome or Y-chromosome. Each one of us had a home life. While growing up, what was the dominant gender in one's household? They are either male-dominant or female dominant. I believe depending on which you were from shapes your relationships later in life such as a) courtship/dating, b) marriage conflicts, c) parenting.

Dr. Leonard Sax has a rule for parents and their discipline, "here's the general rule for positive discipline, for girls twelve-and-under, and boys fourteen-and-under: *Don't ask. Tell.*" According to Sax, this is how the parents should address all interaction with their child. (Sax, Leonard *Why Gender Matters*, 2005 page 173.) Gender matters because it is the first trait that separates us from one another. Among all demographics

such as age, race, skin color, hair color, eye color, height, etc. the one that really defines us is our sex or gender. Researchers at Cambridge University completed an experiment on gender differences. “The results of this experiment suggest that girls are born prewired to be interested in faces while boys are prewired to be more interested in moving objects.” (Sax, Leonard *Why Gender Matter*, 2005, page 19)

Throughout society and history in the United States, a majority of families were patriarchal in nature. This was definitely the case from the late 18th century through the 1960’s. “Betty Friedan was the first to seize upon the sense of grievance and discrimination that developed among women in the 1960’s. The beginning of the effort to raise women’s consciousness was her 1963 book, *The Feminine Mystique*. Calling the American home a ‘comfortable concentration camp,’ she attacked the prevailing view that women were completely contented with their housekeeping and child-rearing tasks, claiming that housewives had no self esteem and no sense of identity.” (*America: Past and Present, Brief Third Edition*, 1994 by Harper Collins College Publishers, page 583)

In the 1970’s, the women’s movement was in full swing and females began to enter the workforce in higher numbers. “The harsh rhetoric and militancy of the (feminine) extremists repelled many women who expressed satisfaction with their lives.

Despite these disagreements, most women supported the effort to achieve equal status with men, and in 1972 Congress responded by approving the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution. This measure, first introduced in Congress in 1923, now faced a vote in the state legislatures, the final step toward ratification.” (*America: Past and Present, Brief Third Edition*, 1994, Harper Collins College Publishers, Page 538 and

539). This trend created families where women started to make close to the income the men did. Because of this trend, some families were female dominant. My topic is about conflict in relationships coming from how one is conditioned or raised. Couples who come from a gender dominated family will have conflicts if their partner is from the opposite gender domination. I will study high male dominated families, high female dominated, and balanced families. Based on this, my questions would be as follows: What are the effects on people of having a dominant household be it male-dominant or female-dominant? What are the effects of a balanced household for example, one male parent and one male child mixed with one female parent and one female child?

I took two Psychology courses while completing classes for the MALS program. Both Dr. P. Batten's class and Dr. J. Friedman's class were very informative as I have been able to use notes and information I gathered in their classrooms for teaching my high school juniors and seniors in the city. I consider these questions to fit well in the liberal arts curriculum of the MALS program.

METHODOLOGY AND APPROACH

I will answer my questions using a questionnaire distributed over the internet.

The questionnaire will be set up by items that measure the influence of the families in their upbringing in three specific areas: courtship/dating process, marriage conflicts (or non-conflicts), or parenting philosophy.

My subjects would be drawn as a convenient sample from a colleague list of mainly teachers, guidance counselors, and administration. It will also contain a list of people of varied occupations from my personal email account. This process is expected to yield a heterogeneous distribution of subjects from many backgrounds with limited bias.

We have found a couple of pre-existing scales that we will use for the questionnaire to be sent out on the web. One example is from *childtrends.org* under the title of *Healthy Marriages Compendium*. There are several similar scales relating to the topic which I have chosen. These scales are ordinal, nominal, and interval measurements allowing for higher level statistical analysis such as testing for statistically significant differences between groups. T-tests which are a question of significance will be used as well.

I, with Dr. Mitra's help, will submit all surveys and questionnaires properly through the Institutional Review Board to gain approval for my research.

After gaining and compiling the data, I will have results capable of speaking to my thesis topic or question. The last bit of research will be gauging the probability of chance.

Methods

I compiled questions for a survey which would serve for data to be used for my Thesis Paper for my MALS Program Graduate School Degree. Including the Introduction and Agreement to my Survey Monkey, I had eleven questions for my subjects to answer. Question Number 4 was the only subjective response question where the subjects were able to answer in short-handed written comments and statements. The rest of the questions were objective.

In order to send out my survey which looks at ‘Conflicts which arise in our society’s gender roles’, I requested approval through Wake Forest’s Internal Review Board. After addressing I.R.B. concerns and being approved by the I.R.B. for ethical questions in mid-January of 2013, I was able to send out my survey to 419 potential recipients. Of the 419 people to which I sent the survey, 261 people did not respond, but 158 people did respond.

For specifics, 7 people opted out of taking the survey after opening the link, and 27 emails were to bounced or sent to invalid email addresses. This is how we got to 158 people responding to the survey.

The demographics of the people who replied to my survey broke down like this, there was 71.2% Male respondents and 28.2% Female respondents. Because of this gender imbalance, I decided to statistically weight the data. For every male response I will count 0.7 points toward the final results, and for every female reply, I will count it as 1.3 points. I believe this statistical weighting of the responses will present the data in a more balanced light that is no longer skewed to one gender or the other.

The questionnaire was set up by items that measure the influence of the families in their upbringing in three specific areas: the courtship/dating process, marriage conflicts and debates (or non-conflicts), or parenting philosophy. These three areas are what data will attempt to view.

Descriptive Analysis

In terms of where people considered themselves to live as they were growing up, 16% of the people who answered described their home setting as Rural, 64% of the people chose Suburban, and 18% described their childhood setting as Urban.

Another question I posed was to describe the level of faith in your house while you grew up. In general, it was a very high based faith group. Forty-two percent of people chose high, 40.8% chose Medium. Almost 83% believed they grew up in a high to medium faith based household. There were just under 15% of people that chose low, and 2.6% of people who considered themselves unaffiliated with faith.

There was a very wide array of subjects on the spectrum of Age. Nearly 3% of the respondents were aged 19 to 25 years, 8.5% of the subjects were aged 26 to 35, almost 46% of the subjects were aged 36 to 50 years, just under 30% of the subjects were aged 51 to 65 years, and 13.1% of the subjects were aged over 65 years. Not surprisingly, the height of this bell curve was the 36 to 50 years age group which is where I fall, myself, and to whom I sent the majority of survey inquiries.

In response to Survey Question #10, which dealt with ‘how many working adults were in the household where you grew up?’ the data flows as follows: only 2.6% of the subjects replied to having no working adults, 43.7% of the subjects replied to having one

working adult during childhood, while 2% had three (3) or more working adults. A majority of subjects, 51.7% of respondents, who responded with two (2) or more working adults.

In Question #2, I asked ‘Thinking of your current relationship with your spouse, please indicate how often you were primarily responsible for paying for outings’. Of the subjects, 13.3% chose Sometimes or Responsible 50% of the times. There was a shared sense of paying during courtship almost 14% of the times. 26% of the time, one side always paid in courtship dates, and 7.3% of the time one side never paid.

I am focusing on what are seen as shared responsibilities and in ‘food purchase and food preparation’, 22.0% of the respondents felt the duties were even. 38.7% of the subjects replied to ‘seldom’ being dominant with food for a plurality. In home maintenance 31.3% of the subjects felt duties were shared evenly. There were 32.0% of replies to Often being the dominant decision maker for the plurality in home maintenance. In child rearing, 36.4% of the subjects felt carrying out the primary discipline was shared evenly with a Sometimes or Half the time reply. This number was easily the plurality in this column as 55 of the subjects chose Sometimes.

Lastly, in Question #2 I asked how were financial decisions handled? A strong response of 43.0% of the times, financial decisions were made evenly, or half the time-Sometimes. The 43.0% represented the plurality as well.

In Question #3, I specifically asked the subjects to remember times and items of conflict. For financial decisions, there was Sometimes conflict about 33.0% of the time. In child rearing, only 20.1% of the subjects Sometimes had conflict with almost 35.0% of

the respondents not having children to answer the question.

Two categories where there was a high response to Never having conflict was Yard Maintenance at 40.7% and Cleaning Clothes at 42.3%. This signifies well-defined roles for these items, and consistency in completing the task. More than likely, it is males handling the yard or outside duties, and females tackling the cleaning clothes or inside duties.

Cooking and food purchases were a relatively low 12.1% of the duty being evenly shared. This was the closest to a majority with 47.7% of the subjects Seldom having conflict which means one side is usually responsible for food preparation. There was never a conflict with cooking 30.2% of the time. Combining those two stats, 87.9% of the time there is seldom to never conflict with food. The assumption here is females are handling the food as part of inside duties. According to behavior in social settings, there is Seldom conflict 39.6% of the time, and Never conflict 29.5% of the time. Once again, combining these stats there is Seldom to Never conflict with social activities 69.1% of the time.

Lastly, for Question #3, I asked if there was conflict with behavior related to sexual intimacy. For 32.7% of the subjects, they felt there was Seldom any conflict, this was the plurality while 28.7% of the subjects Never had conflict with intimacy, but a small 2.0% Always had conflict with intimacy.

In Question #5, I asked the subjects to think about their childhood and to who was the dominant gender in three categories. The results are as follows; the first item was who was dominant in most decisions. Females were dominant 42.1% of the time, and Males

were dominant 40.8% of the time while 11.8% replied no knowledge.

Also in Question #5, I asked who was dominant in financial decisions in particular. For Financial decisions, Males were considered dominant for a majority of 52.3% of the time and Females 28.5% of the time with 13.9% having no knowledge.

The third category of Question #5 is who was dominant in disciplining the children. Parental discipline was doled out by Females for a majority 56.7% of the time with Males only dominant here for 35.35 of the time; while 2% had no knowledge. Exactly 6% of the respondents did not have children of their own for which they were responsible for discipline on a regular basis. I would fall into that non-applicable category which is why I added it in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Child rearing decision by age:

Frequency	26 to 35	36 to 50	51 to 65	Over 65
Often	20%	20%	8%	8%
Seldom	80%	69%	69%	66%
Never	0%	11%	23%	25%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

The most constant conflict which occurs in any partnership - be it a traditional marriage, the newly anointed gay marriage (legal in many states, but not currently sanctioned in North Carolina) engagements, serious dating, or even a business partnership - revolves around financial decisions. Yes, money makes the world go around, and also creates many debates surrounding the items on which the partnership's money is spent.

Question #2 from Survey, How often the following occurs:

Table 2 – Subject Makes Decision:

Frequency	Financial	Child-rearing	Home main	Food Prep	Courtship
Often	45%	23.6%	46.3%	30%	59.3%
Seldom	45.6%	45.7%	44.2%	60.7%	25.3%
Never	0%	0%	1.4%	2%	7.3%

When financial decisions are broken down to gender, it is interesting to me because neither side seems to feel they are making decisions. I asked the question ‘Do you make financial decisions Often, Seldom, or Never?’, 67.6% of the Males felt they Seldom make decisions about money. For the same question, 69.2% of the Females replied they Seldom make financial decisions. If the couple’s answers were paired with their partner, this would be statistically impossible. In total, 68% of the respondents to this question believe the other spouse or partner is making a strong majority of decisions.

Table 3 – In what setting did you grow up?:

Frequency	Rural	Suburban	Urban
Often	12.5%	16.4%	15.8%
Seldom	68.8%	67.2%	73.7%
Never	18.8%	16.4%	10.5%
Total	100%	100%	100%

The Rural grouping was almost 19% never having a conflict with Child rearing, and when combining Seldom and Never, there was almost 88% without issues. This is a large number, and outweighs the Combining of Seldom and Never in the Urban setting over 84%; another high number. In general, child rearing seems to have very clearly defined gender roles.

Table 4- Describe level of Faith in your house while you grew up and financial conflicts:

Frequency	High	Medium	Low
Often	14.5%	18.6%	11.1%
Seldom	71.0%	66.1%	55.6%
Never	14.5%	15.3%	33.3%
Total	100%	100%	100%

The group which considered itself to be high faith-based had 85% with Seldom or Never having conflict with Financial Decisions. This Seldom to Never number dropped slightly to 81% in the group considering itself Medium faith-based, and it was the highest among Low faith-based at 88% when combining Seldom to Never pairing. This was largely due to the overwhelming one-third of the low faith-based group that replied Never having conflict in the Financial decision-making category.

Question #3 from the survey, how often the following occurs:

The question was -- thinking about conflict with your partner, how often in the past year have you had a conflicted situation over:

Table 5 – Conflict in the past year:

Frequency	Financial	Child Rearing	Household Chores	Food Prep	Yard Maint	Clothes	Social Settings	Sexual Intimacy
Often	14.6%	10.1%	12.7%	4.7%	2%	2.7%	4.1%	9.3%
Seldom	81.9%	44.9%	67.3%	59.8%	46.7%	49.7%	61.7%	54.7%
Never	15.9%	45%	20%	35.6%	51.4%	47.7%	34.2%	36%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

As we have a modern, non archaic society where both partners in a relationship have some say in what happens, financial decision conflicts is the easy, runaway winner as the category with the most issues coming in at almost fifteen percent. Conflicts over

Household Chores is a close second place at almost thirteen percent, followed by debates over Child Rearing in third place, with Behavior related to sexual intimacy a very near third place just under ten percent.

When analyzing Sometimes and Seldom or the infrequent replies, financial decisions is still number one with almost 82%, household chores is still the second highest response with 67.3%, but Behavior in Social Settings jumps into the third highest response total well over Child Rearing.

More flipping of roles comes when we analyze the Never having conflict in the last year Category. There is one majority category which never has conflict; coming in at 51.4% is Yard Maintenance. One partner always takes care of what many people call, the Outside Responsibilities of the House. Cleaning clothing is the 2nd highest Never a conflict response as 47.7% or almost forty eight percent claimed to not have issues here.

The third highest response total where there was never a conflict was the category called Child Rearing which was an exact 45%. Are we to believe most partners always agree on the proper way to raise a child, or that one partner over the other is constantly making strong and unilateral decisions when it comes to how their children or acquired guardianship of children is played out? Either way it is clear that Child Rearing has clearly defined gender or partnership roles.

Answer to Research Questions

In order to properly answer questions given in my proposal, the information from the survey was broken into Cross Tabulation charts of men making decisions from a

male-dominated household and women making decisions from a male-dominated household. The inverse was calculated as well with data from men making decisions from a female-dominated household and women making decisions from a female-dominated household.

Table 6-Men reporting decision making often:

Men making decisions often about:	Male Dominated	Female Dominated
Financial decisions	30%	52%
child rearing, you are the primary disciplinarian	44%	44%
home maintenance, you are the primary decision maker	34%	49%
food purchase/preparation, you are the dominant player	24%	53%
During courtship, you were primarily responsible for paying for outings	35%	45%

In terms of who makes the decisions on life aspects, the men from female-dominated households always made more decisions than men from male-dominated households. Child Rearing was even at 44%. I believe many men felt the need to step up and make decisions when raised in a female-dominated household, and at the same time they were conditioned to be responsible for making the decisions.

Table 7-Men reporting conflict often:

Men reporting conflicts often about:	Male Dominated	Female Dominated
Financial decisions	41%	29%
Child rearing	60%	30%
Household chores/maintenance	21%	57%
Cooking /food purchases	24%	53%
Behavior related to sexual intimacy	70%	10% (N is small)

Over four out of ten men from male-dominated families report conflict in making financial decisions. Fewer than three out of ten times they report conflict with money if from female-dominated families. On the topic of child-rearing, six out of ten times there is some conflict on how to raise the child while that number is cut in half when men are from female-dominated households. Although a small sample, there was major conflict with behavior related to Sexual Intimacy.

Conversely, there was much more conflict from men who grew up in female-dominated households with household chores and maintenance, perhaps because they already think they know what they are doing. The women usually have a completely different criteria of how to tackle the responsibilities of the house. To quote one of my subjects from Question #4 (Short Answer), “Women tend to do more work in the home because they have less tolerance not to”—Subject 24. Subject 18 replied on this topic, “There are certain household chores that men don’t see, therefore (they) don’t help with or take responsibility for.”

In general, men who grew up in male-dominated households have more conflict in a majority of categories. The child-rearing and food preparation are the minorities.

Most couples do not talk about the difficult issues they will have to discuss later in a relationship or marriage. Most people go into marriage or procreation with a positive outlook, assuming everything will be for the good. No one wants to think about having major disagreements and conflicts over financial decisions or how to raise a child, but those happen nevertheless. Most couples assume their new child will be healthy physically and mentally. They never envision the problems that could arise with creating

life. This is a positive way to think, but more idealistic than realistic.

On to women making decisions about life aspects. When women are from male-dominated households they make more decisions in general.

Table 8-Women reporting decision making often:

Women making decisions often about:	Male Dominated	Female Dominated
Financial decisions	44%	44%
child rearing, you are the primary disciplinarian	61%	31%
home maintenance, you are the primary decision maker	60%	33%
food purchase/preparation, you are the dominant player	54%	36%
During courtship, you were primarily responsible for paying for outings	50%	50% (N is small)

With financial decisions and courtship outings, both were draws for women with men in who makes the decisions and payments. In the other three categories, the women were constantly making more decisions when coming from a male-dominated household.

Table 9-Women reporting conflict often:

Women reporting conflicts often about:	Male Dominated	Female Dominated
Financial decisions	60%	40% (N=5)
Child rearing	40%	60% (N=5)
Household chores/maintenance	60%	40% (N=5)
Cooking /food purchases	24%	53%
Behavior related to sexual intimacy	75%	25% (N is small)

CONCLUSION

In terms of how women reported conflict after being broken down to male-dominated and female dominated households, the most conflict with a large sample number was over cooking and food preparation and it was a majority from the female-dominated households.

Although the other samples were small, there was a distinct difference with women from male-dominated households in having conflict with financial decisions, household chores, and behavior related to sexual intimacy.

In general, the women did not have conflicts often, but when they did the women were from male-dominated households. Men tend to be poor influences when conditioning children how to compromise on issues.

For a majority of categories we find men and women from male-dominated households have more conflict in their future courtships, marriages, relationships, and child-rearing practices. Men may be more set in their ways, more stubborn, and less agreeable to compromise so either gender raised from such a household has trouble reaching middle ground with debates for agreements and disagreements.

I realize as any social scientist I have borrowed variables from behavioral science which were based on personal preference or convenience or both. I will add that I chose to measure topics I see as relevant and common for our society.

Comparison to other research

On September 25th, 2008, the *Pew Research Social and Development Trends* group released a survey they conducted asking couples who made the decisions in their household.

Of the topics included were managing household finances and buying items for the home. “The results were the following: 43% of the time, women make more decisions in more areas than men do; in contrast men make more decisions in 26% of all couples.; and about three in ten (31%) couples split decision-making responsibilities equally.”

The results of the *Pew* group were similar to what my survey learned without dealing with household dominance in which the respondents grew up. The *Pew* group used responses from 1,260 respondents who were married or living as a couple.

Discussion

It is very difficult to separate our personal experience from the study of social science, which often leads to unintentional biases. Many of my survey questions were drawn from the conflicts I see arising in my family, my own personal relationship, and from those of my friends and acquaintances. The responses, which generally confirm my thesis, did lead me to have questions which could have been more narrowly focused. In particular the questions regarding men and women making decisions “Often” were from opposite gender dominated households. (Tables 6 and 8). There was strong evidence from data collected that the inverse relationship was true. Emulating and copying the opposite gender parent also the dominant gender parent for that family. This could warrant a deeper sociological understanding of why participants choose the opposite

gender role model. Could it be a response to perceived passivity of the same gender parents?

This study could also be broadened to understand a generational response to gender dominance by including extended families living in the same household and that influence on the outcomes in future relationships. Another question that could have been included is that of sibling influence on gender modeling.

I know from my personal experience that power dynamics are fluid. What a respondent answered this year may change as circumstances change in their future. This study was done at a time when men are losing their dominance in secondary education and in the workplace due to economic shifts. That intellectual and financial power certainly affects the power structure within families.

As the definition of “family” continues to evolve with same gender parenting in homosexual relationships and single parenting, future questions in a continuation of this study could include the adaptation of what society views as traditional gender roles.

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APPENDIX I - Survey

Survey Questions (electronic submission)

You are being asked to participate in a research study that looks at 'Conflicts which arise in our society's gender roles'. You will be asked questions as they pertain to how couples handle conflicts in decision-making with regards to courtship, marriage, and parenting.

You are asked to complete a brief online survey that asks some questions about your relationship and who controls the decisions in it. There are no direct benefits to you for participating in this study and the risks that you may encounter are no greater than those you might encounter in everyday life.

You have the option to stop participating at any time without penalty by simply closing your browser. In all, the survey will take no longer than 20 minutes to complete.

Additionally, your responses to this study will be completely confidential. No identifying personal information will be collected to minimize any risk of participating in the study.

Only the investigators will have access to the raw data.

Participation in this study is voluntary and you may choose to not answer any question that you do not wish to respond to for any reason.

If you have questions about your rights as a participant, you can contact the Principal Investigator at (336) 7585134 or at Ananda@wfu.edu or contact the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, (336) 7585888.

By clicking the AGREE button below, you indicate that you are willing to participate in this research project. If you choose not to participate please click on the button that says EXIT.

Questionnaire Begin:

Q1. AGREE to participate Or EXIT Questionnaire

Q2. Thinking of your current relationship with your spouse, please indicate how often the following occurs:

-Categories: You make financial decisions
In child rearing, you are the primary disciplinarian
In home maintenance, you are the primary decision maker
In food purchase/preparation, you are the dominant player
During courtship, you were primarily responsible for paying for outings

-Frequency Always (100% of the time) Often Sometimes(50% of the time) Seldom
Never (0% of the times) Not Applicable

Q3. Thinking about conflict with your partner, how often in the past year have you had a conflicted situation over:

-Categories;
Financial decisions, Child rearing, Household chores/maintenance,
Cooking /food purchases, Yard maintenance, Cleaning clothing,
Behavior in social settings, Behavior related to sexual intimacy

-Frequency: Always Often Sometimes Seldom Never Not Applicable

Q4. Please offer any additional comments and thoughts about gender based conflict that you are familiar with.

Q5. Thinking about your childhood who was the dominant gender in these situations:

-Choices: Male Female No knowledge Not Applicable

-Categories:
Overall dominant in most decisions
In financial decisions in particular
In disciplining the children

Q6. What is your gender?

Q7. What is your age?

Q8. In what type of setting did you grow up?

Q9. How would you describe the level of faith in your house while you grew up?

Q10. How many working adults were in the household where you grew up?

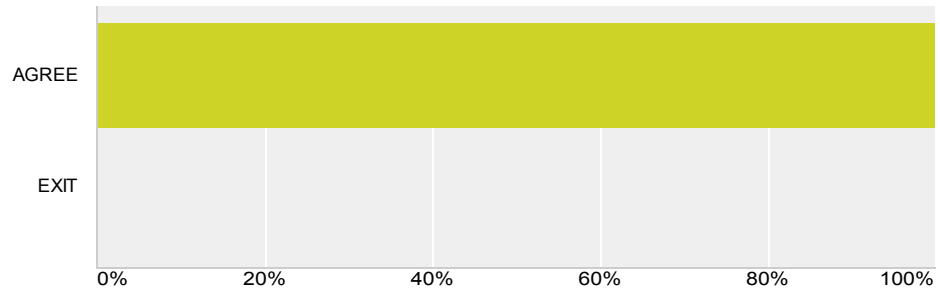
Q11. In your current relationship, does your partner work?

Physical Electronic Survey

Q1 You are being asked to participate in a research study that looks at 'Conflicts which arise in our society's gender roles'. You will be asked questions as they pertain to how couples handle conflicts in decision-making with regards to courtship, marriage, and parenting. You are asked to complete a brief online survey that asks some questions about your relationship and who controls the decisions in it. There are no direct benefits to you for participating in this study and the risks that you may encounter are no greater than those you might encounter in every-day life. You have the option to stop participating at any time without penalty by simply closing your browser. In all, the survey will take no longer than 20 minutes to complete. Additionally, your responses to this study will be completely confidential. No identifying personal information will be collected to minimize any risk of participating in the study. Only the investigators will have access to the raw data.

Participation in this study is voluntary and you may choose to not answer any question that you do not wish to respond to for any reason. If you have questions about your rights as a participant, you can contact the Principal Investigator at (336) 758-5134 or at Ananda@wfu.edu or contact the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, (336) 758-5888. By clicking the AGREE button below, you indicate that you are willing to participate in this research project. If you choose not to participate please click on the button that says EXIT QUESTIONNAIRE.

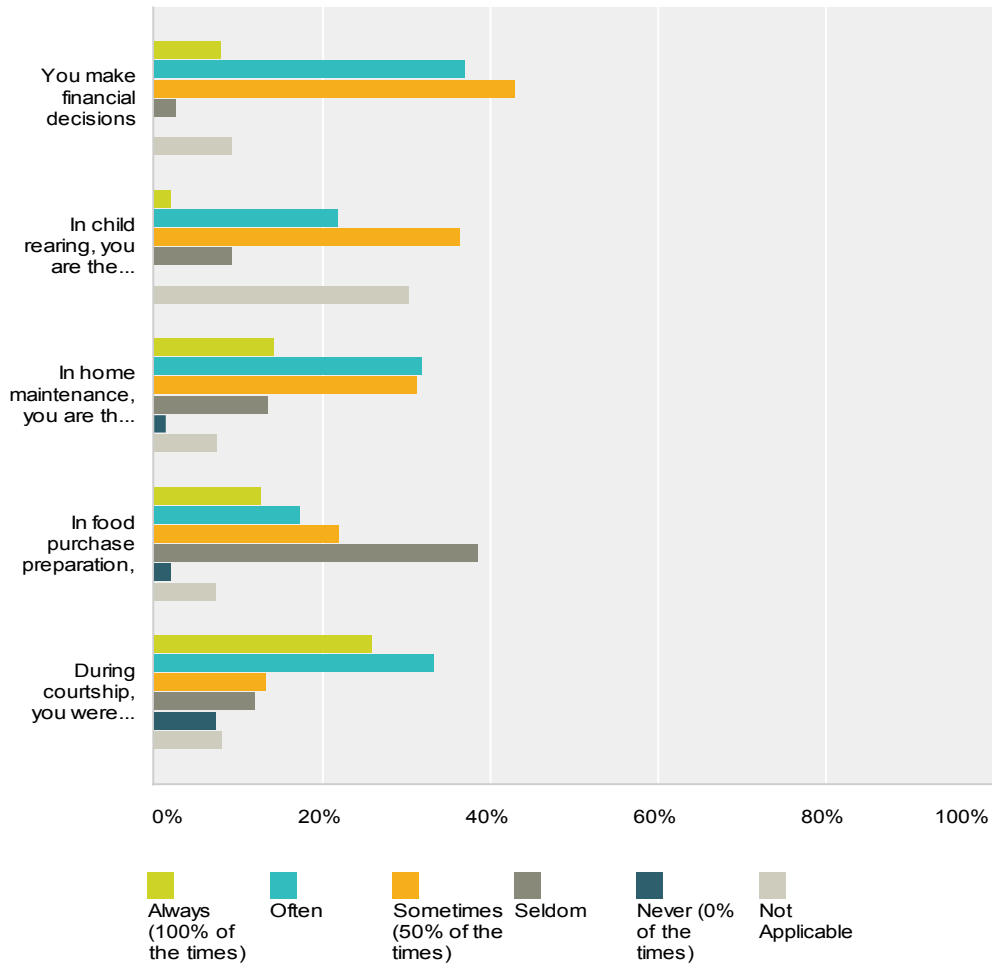
Answered: 156 Skipped: 3



AnswerChoices	Responses	
AGREE	100%	156
EXIT QUESTIONNAIRE	0%	0
Total		156

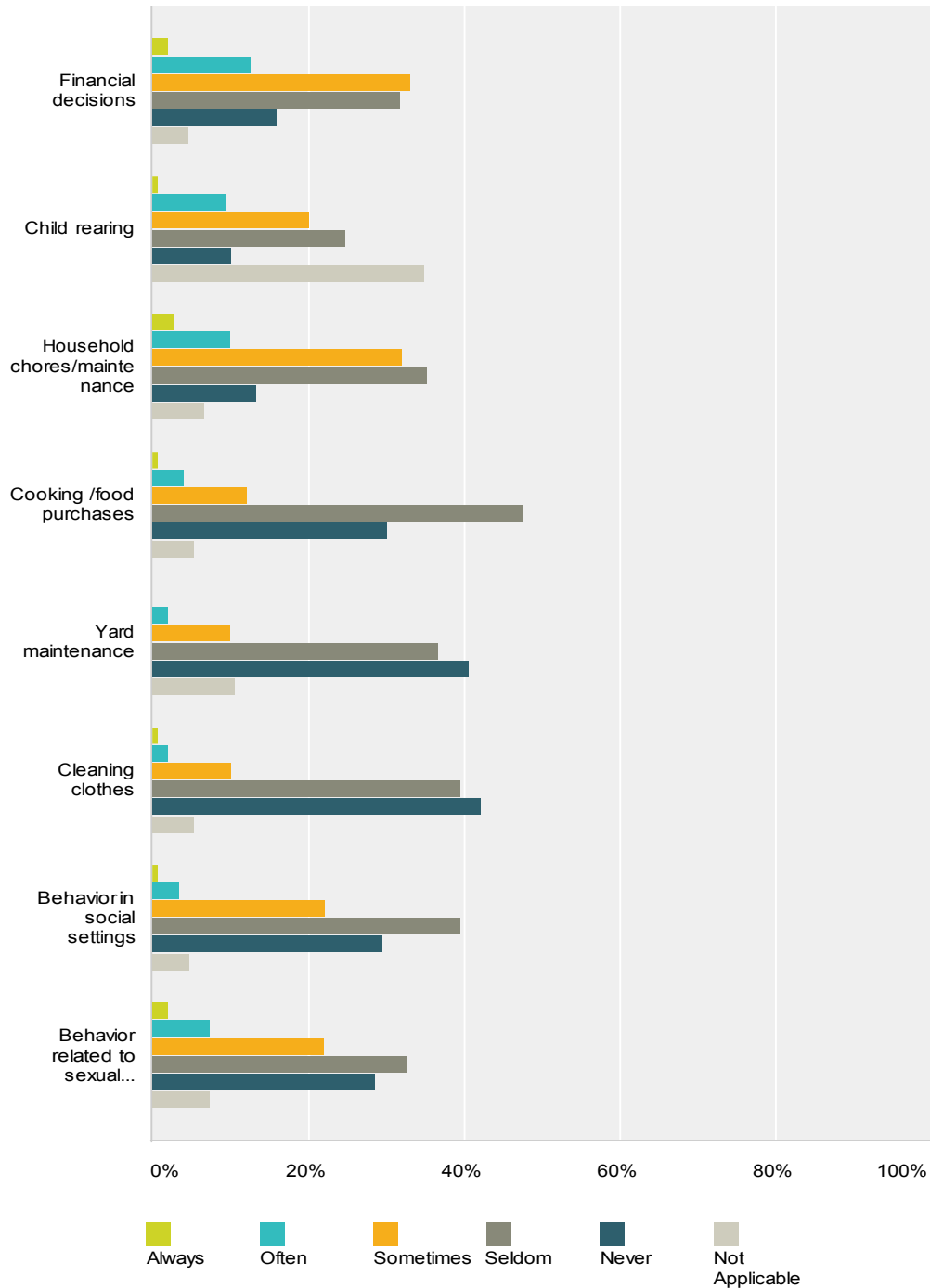
Q2 Thinking of your current relationship with your spouse, please indicate how often the following occurs:

Answered: 151 Skipped: 8



Q3 Thinking about conflict with your partner, how often in the past year have you had a conflicted situation over:

Answered: 151 Skipped: 8



	Alw ays	Often	Sometimes	Seldom	Never	Not Applicable	
Financial decisions	3	12.58% 19	33.11% 50	31.79% 48	15.89% 24	4.64%	
Child rearing	1	9.40% 14	20.13% 30	24.83% 37	10.07% 15	34.90%	

Household Chores /mainten		10% 15	32% 48	35.33% 53	13.33% 20	6.67% 10
Cooking /food purchases	0.67% 1	4.03% 6	12.08% 18	47.65% 71	30.20% 45	5.37% 8
Yard maintenance	0% 0	2% 3	10% 15	36.67% 55	40.67% 61	10.67% 16
Cleaning clothes	0.67% 1	2.01% 3	10.07% 15	39.60% 59	42.28% 63	5.37% 8
Behavior in social settings	0.67% 1	3.36% 5	22.15% 33	39.60% 59	29.53% 44	4.70% 7
Behavior related to sexual intimacy	2% 3	7.33% 11	22% 33	32.67% 49	28.67% 43	7.33% 11

Q4 Please offer any additional comments and thoughts about gender-based conflict that you are familiar with.

Answered: 36 Skipped: 123

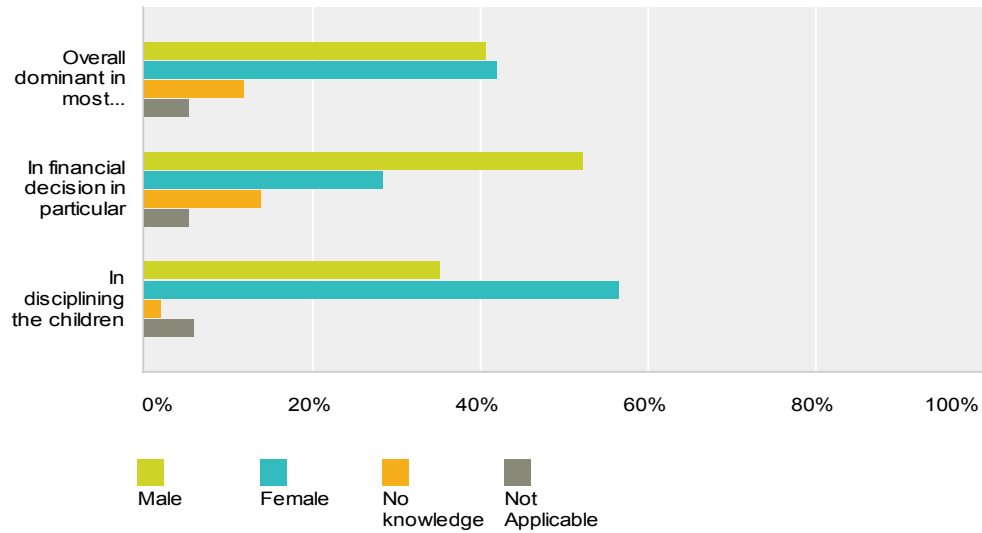
#	Responses	Date
1	I don't really consider many of the conflicts that I have with my wife to be because of gender. It has more to do with social stress.	2/13/2013 12:24 PM
2	Many times, choices concerning social activities result in conflict due to both parties refusing to offer options or opinions.	2/4/2013 10:53 PM
3	open communication without high emotions helps. sometimes it's okay to step away, so long as you handle it within a reasonable	2/4/2013 8:42 AM
4	We are blessed in that we seldom have conflict. Perhaps we are both conflict-adverse.	2/1/2013 4:30 PM
5	conflict over certain domestic chores based on perceived level of quality	2/1/2013 12:45 PM
6	mutual respect is a must--clear expectations	1/31/2013 5:03 PM
7	Aging Parent issues -	1/30/2013 6:10 PM
8	Wife working. Resolved without conflict. Sister-in-law coming for extended stay; resolved with minimal conflict. Purchase new car, no	1/30/2013 4:02 PM
9	Oh, I have lots of thoughts, but I don't currently have a spouse or partner.	1/30/2013 2:52 PM
10	as time goes on, it seems that the roles in the household have merged a bit and both parties are expected to carry the weight of most	1/30/2013 1:27 PM
11	After 31 of living with someone the line are kind of set, at this stage we both have areas we are responsible for	1/30/2013 1:19 PM
12	I think in marriage, fiscal matters lead to the most conflict.	1/30/2013 1:11 PM
13	getting traditional male duties done timely enough for the female	1/30/2013 12:50 PM
14	none	1/30/2013 11:40 AM
15	Been married for 40 years, vast majority of issues are resolved without conflict	1/30/2013 5:42 AM
16	approach marriage with 100% commitment, don't expect things, respect generates love, listen	1/30/2013 5:04 AM
17	Some such conflicts seem to arise due to lack of communication. Others, because they seem inevitably part of	1/30/2013 1:50 AM
18	there are certain household chores that men don't see. therefore don't help with or take responsibility for.	1/29/2013 9:16 PM
19	been married twice... when this one fails it will be the last. money is the root of all problems, no question	1/29/2013 8:42 PM
20	Sometimes the other person tries to be controlling.	1/29/2013 8:18 PM
21	Travel	1/29/2013 6:11 PM

22	working habits	1/29/2013 4:43 PM
23	Men and Women both need to give 100% to their family and to each other.	1/29/2013 3:58 PM
24	Women tend to do more work in the home because they have less tolerance not to	1/29/2013 2:08 PM
25	Are the balance of your measured categories traditional male or female and does that affect/predict the outcome?	1/29/2013 12:13 PM
26	I am a great dad, but an awful mother.....	1/29/2013 11:35 AM
27	Elderly parents	1/29/2013 11:17 AM

#	Responses	Date
28	The female tends to thoroughly think out situations whereas the male tends to act and move on and it is because of these differences that conflict arises between genders on how things are done, not so much as	1/29/2013 11:14 AM
29	The key is respect to others views and opinions without imposition and control. Financials and sexuality are key conflicts if not	1/29/2013 9:49 AM
30	In a prior relationship there was a great deal of conflict. I have now found my soul mate and we have very little conflict in our relationship.	1/29/2013 8:58 AM
31	Unfortunately as I am still single, these did not apply to me. However, I do feel that a lot of traditional gender roles have been shifting greatly as more women find jobs in the workforce in full time positions. This has led to a necessary shift in roles in household chores and whatnot. These changes have seemed to be slower than expected, as the men with working women in their lives adjust slowly because they are often used to certain gender roles from their own upbringing and from media	1/29/2013 8:52 AM
32	My SO's former wife was apparently far more submissive/obedient than I, a successful professional woman who has never been married. I don't take kindly to unsolicited advice and interference with what I view	1/29/2013 8:43 AM
33	Dealing with aging parents	1/29/2013 8:29 AM
34	the tone of ones voice is the greatest factor in the outcome of the conflict	1/29/2013 7:42 AM
35	Not necessarily conflicts but serious discussion about purchasing items that grand children do not need.	1/29/2013 7:03 AM
36	iwehwnfs	5/3/2012 7:22 PM

Q5 Thinking about your childhood who was the dominant gender in these situations:

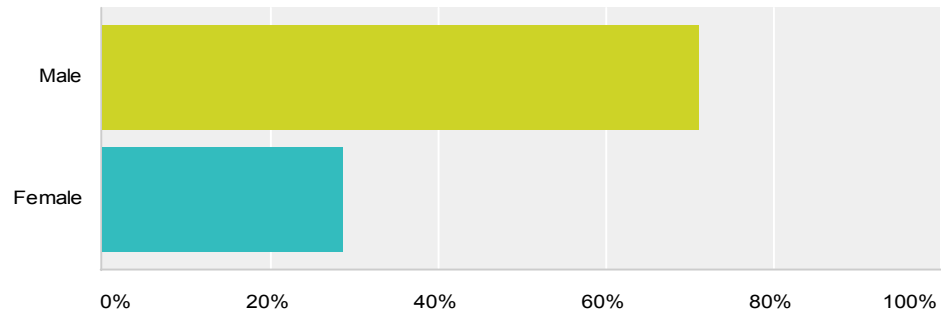
Answered: 152 Skipped: 7



	Male	Female	No knowledge	Not Applicable
Overall dominant in most decisions	40.79% 62	42.11% 64	11.84% 18	5.26% 8
In financial decision in particular	52.32% 79	28.48% 43	13.91% 21	5.30% 8
In disciplining the children	35.33% 53	56.67% 85	2% 3	6% 9

Q6 What is your gender?

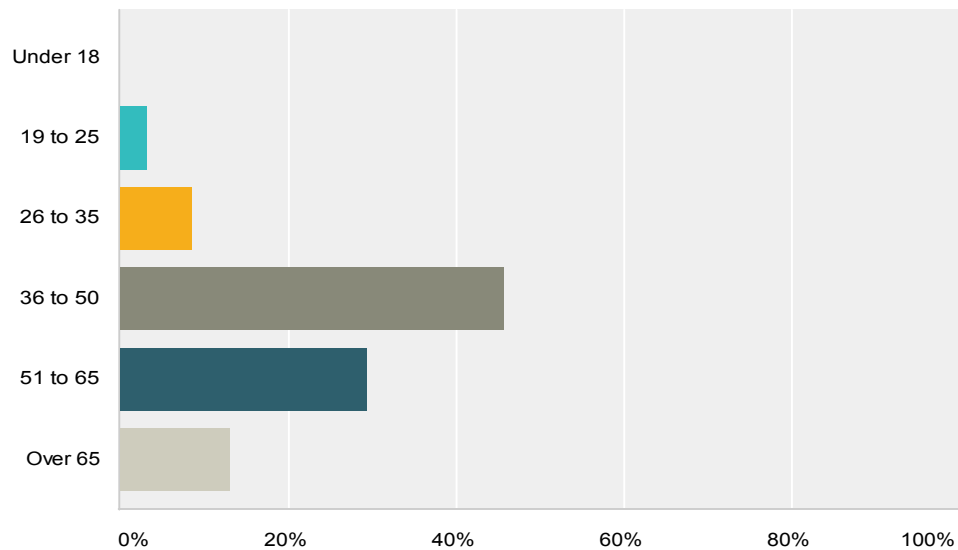
Answered: 153 Skipped: 6



AnswerChoices	Responses	
Male	71.24%	109
Female	28.76%	44
Total		153

Q7 What is your age?

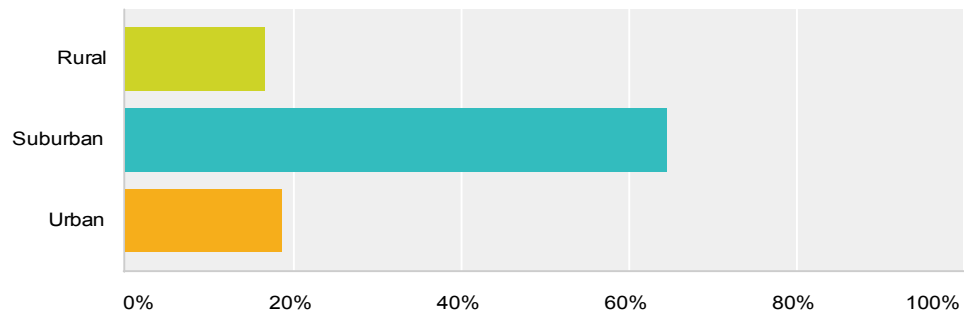
Answered: 153 Skipped: 6



AnswerChoices	Responses	
Under 18	0%	0
19 to 25	3.27%	5
26 to 35	8.50%	13
36 to 50	45.75%	70
51 to 65	29.41%	45
Over 65	13.07%	20
Total		153

Q8 In what type of setting did you grow up?

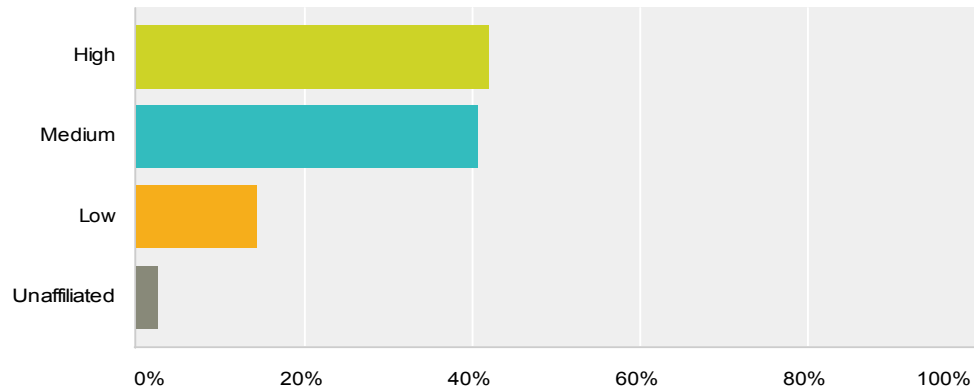
Answered: 150 Skipped: 9



AnswerChoices	Responses	
Rural	16.67%	25
Suburban	64.67%	97
Urban	18.67%	28
Total		150

Q9 How would you describe the level of faith in your house while you grew up?

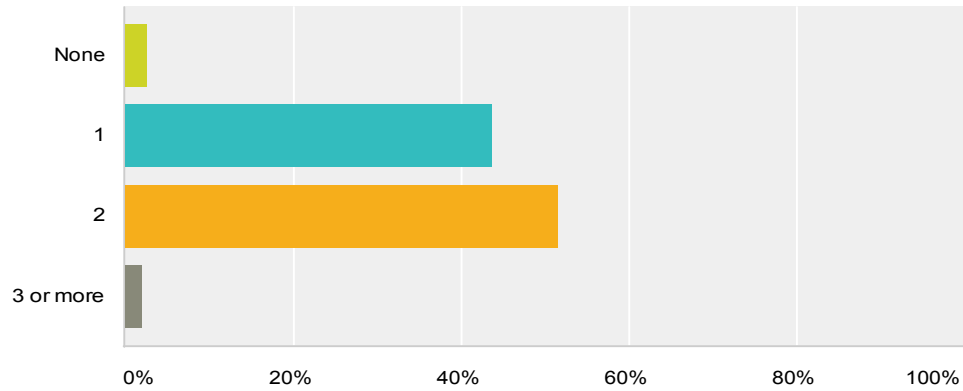
Answered: 152 Skipped: 7



Answer Choices	Responses	
High	42.11%	64
Medium	40.79%	62
Low	14.47%	22
Unaffiliated	2.63%	4
Total	152	

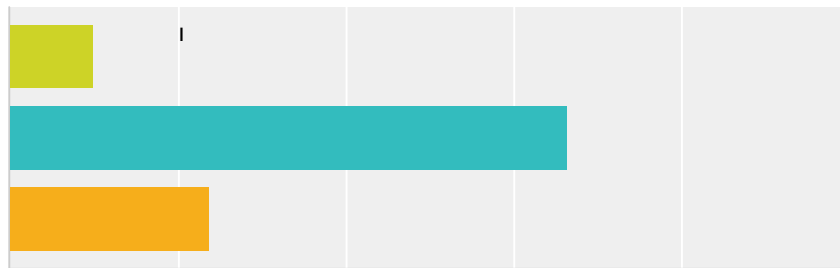
Q10 How many working adults were in the household where you grew up?

Answered: 151 Skipped: 8



AnswerChoices	Responses	
None	2.65%	4
1	43.71%	66
2	51.66%	78
3 or more	1.99%	3
Total	151	

**Q11 In your
current
relationship,
does your
partner work?**



Answer Choices	Responses	
I am currently not in a relationship	9.87%	15
Yes	66.45%	101
No	23.68%	36
Total		152

APPENDIX II - Short Answer Responses

Answered: 35 Skipped: 123

Responses

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1/29/2013 8:43 AM

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CURRICULUM VITAE

Educational Background:

- UNC-Charlotte Political Science, B.A. major and American Studies minor, 1993
- Winston-Salem State University 9-12 High School Social Studies Certificate Program, 1995
- Wake Forest University MALS program 2009-present

Academic Awards:

- NEH Grant- “Shaping the Constitution” Mount Vernon, NY 2007
- NEH Grant- “The World In Crisis” FDR Archives, Hyde Park, NY 2007

Professional Organizations:

- North Carolina High School Coaches Association

Professional Experience:

North Carolina High School Social Studies Teacher 1995-present,
predominantly in the Winston-Salem Forsyth County Schools system.

Under social studies umbrella I have taught: Civics/Economics, U.S. History, World History, Psychology, Vietnam History, Contemporary History, International Relations, Geography, and African-American Studies.

I have also coached various sports on the high school level mainly Varsity Level Girls Basketball.