

Question in Project:

FReDA-W2b - Questions on the topics of women's fertility, affective touching behavior, sexual orientation, and transnational families (English Version)

Question Topic:

Society & social affairs/ Relationships

Construct:

Affective touching behavior (intimate embrace)

Question Text:

How often would you like to have touched this way with your partner in the last week?

Answer Categories:

Not at all

1 time

2 to 5 times

6 to 10 times

11 to 20 times

More than 20 times

Cognitive Techniques:

Specific Probing

Findings for Question:

Aim of the pretest:

Questions 8 and 9 were designed to record how often the respondents and their partners had touched each other in this way in the past week and whether this frequency corresponded to their wishes. Cognitive follow-up questions were used to examine how the respondents interpreted the picture, how they determined their answers to question 8, and whether the two questions were correctly related.

Findings:

Table 12 shows the frequency distributions of questions 8 and 9. There was no **item**

nonresponse for either question, i.e., all 240 test respondents answered both questions. The test persons used the full range of scales for both questions. The frequency distributions of question 9 are significantly left-skewed, indicating that respondents tended to desire more frequent contact of this type. One third of respondents were asked open-ended follow-up questions about questions 8 and 9 (n = 80).

How do respondents interpret the picture?

The majority of respondents (n = 64) interpreted the image as a hug. Some of these respondents specified that it was an "intimate," "close," or "long" hug (n = 22). Six respondents suggested that the hug was for comfort. Four respondents interpreted the picture as one of the pictured persons hugging the other from behind and giving her a kiss on the cheek or neck. The respondents who understood the image in this way indicated a low frequency because it was a very specific type of touch. One respondent complained that the image remained unclear (*"You could make this image a little more clearly. To me it looks like a kiss on the neck, which goes towards foreplay."*, TP675). Three respondents described the image as "cuddling." The remaining respondents gave vague descriptions such as "comfort," "warmth," or "affection."

Do respondents meaningfully relate their answers to questions 8 and 9?

Of the 240 respondents, 61.1% (n = 149) chose the same answer category for both questions, 37.5% (n = 90) gave a higher value for question 9 than for question 8, i.e. that they would have preferred to hug their partner more often, and only one person gave a lower value for question 9, expressing that they would have preferred to touch their partner less often in this way.

Those who answered both questions in the same way all said that their relationship in this respect corresponded to their ideas and needs:

- *"For my feeling, within the last week, it was just the right number of hugs, which is why my two answers (first question and second question) matched."* (TP206, answered '11 to 20 times' to both question).

Similarly, all respondents who would have liked more hugs than took place provided an appropriate explanation for their choice of answers:

- *"Due to everyday stress, far too little affection for partner."* (TP378)
- *"We show each other we are there for each other almost every day, but sometimes more would feel good in between."* (TP412)

In summary, the majority of respondents understood the picture as a hug. Individual test persons thought that one person was hugging the other from behind. In addition, individual test persons interpreted the picture with an additional kiss on the cheek or neck, sometimes with an erotic component. The respondents who understood the image in this way usually indicated a low frequency, as it represents a very specific type of touch. Selecting answers did not cause any problems for the respondents, who were able to remember well when and how often they hugged their partner. In addition, the

respondents' explanations for why they selected their particular combination of responses were consistent with their answers.

Recommendations:

Picture: We recommend adjusting the image so that it is interpreted as just a hug without a kiss or a hug from behind.

Question: If question 9 is intended to capture whether respondents are satisfied with the frequency of this type of touch, we recommend asking this directly. Depending on the analysis desired, this can be done with a three-part or smaller-part question.

Example of a three-part question:

And how often would you have liked to touch your partner in this way last week?

- I would have liked to touch him/her this way more often
- The frequency corresponded to my wishes
- I would have liked to touch him/her this way less often