

The State of Dating

A Special Report

By Jackie Black, Ph.D.

Why are you dating?

- Some singles say "having someone to talk to or do things with" is the most important reason for dating
- A few singles say having fun is most important to them
- Even fewer say that they want to find a partner to live with -- but not to marry
- Many want to date to find a mate

Are you dating to find your ideal partner and build a long-term, committed relationship?

Are you single and seriously looking?

If you answered, "Yes" to either question please join 81% of the respondents to a recent survey of single men and women in the US, as reported by The 3rd Annual Single Voice Survey.

Do you know what you are looking for in a man or in a woman?

The Leger Marketing-Canadian Press surveyed 1,052 adults in January, 2005 and asked the participants to choose the three attributes they most valued in a potential mate.

According to this poll, the following attributes are what women most value in a man.

What women want most in a man:

- Faithful partner: 54 percent
- Respect the other person's independence: 40 percent
- Ability to listen: 35 percent
- Physical attraction: 13 percent
- Being good in bed: 6 percent

It's not good looks. It's not money. It's not a charming personality. It's not a powerful career. What women want most in a man is fidelity.

When asked in this poll what they thought was most important when choosing a mate, fully 54 percent of women responding cited "a faithful partner."

According to this poll, the following attributes are what men most value in a woman.

What men want most in a woman:

- Faithful partner: 47 percent
- Respect the other person's independence: 36 percent
- Intelligence: 35 percent
- Physical attraction: 26 percent
- Being good in bed: 13 percent

Men also cited fidelity as an important attribute, but not surprisingly they also highly valued physical attraction and being good in bed.

Now it's your turn. Grab a piece of paper and a pencil and jot down the three attributes that you would most value in your ideal partner.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

“Where is the best place to meet Mr. or Ms. *You're the One For Me*?”

This is one of the most frequent questions I am asked.

Numerous surveys in the US, Canada and the UK reflect very similar findings. The vast percentage of singles still believe that the best place to meet people is through friends.

Where men and women go to meet their ideal partner:

- Through friends
- At work
- Within their circle of friends
- Online dating services
- Bars, pubs and Clubs
- Chance or Luck
- Newspaper Classified Ads

The biggest difficulties singles face today:

In a recent survey, when asked why they are still single, here's what singles between the ages of 34 and 65 said:

- I am too picky
- It is too hard to meet new people
- It is very hard to find someone you like
- The dating pool is too small
- I can't find anyone who shares my interests
- So many people have bad habits
- Men and women alike are unfaithful

This same group was asked, **“What are the hardest things about being single?”** and **“What do you love most about being single?”**

These respondents agreed that not having someone to do things with, not having enough cash to go out on dates to fun and exotic places and worrying about being alone in the future were the top three things that were hard about being single.

Having "more personal freedom" is the best perk of being single; having their house and things just the way they want them to be and not having to answer to another person are the top three best things about being single.

Did you know...

Daters in their 30s are most likely to...

- Require great chemistry
- Insist on a lot of independence
- Want their partners to be financially secure

Daters in their 40s are most likely to...

- Have a high level of stress
- Say other people's excess baggage is a big dating annoyance
- Have sex more than any other group (26 percent of *Fortysomethings* have sex at least once a week)

Those in their 50s are most likely to...

- Rate sexual compatibility as a critical factor in choosing a partner
- Use an Internet dating website and chat rooms

Those in their 60s are most likely to...

- Be happier than other singles
- Be reluctant to get married

The top three complaints women have about dating and men:

The top three complaints women have about dating and men are (1) men have too much old baggage; (2) women don't have a clue where to meet men and they are meeting too few men; and (3) men are, for the most part, overeager and want to get too serious too fast.

The top three complaints men have about dating and women:

The top three complaints men have about dating and women are (1) women have a lot of baggage; (2) women become difficult to get along with after the first few dates; and (3) women want to get too serious too fast.

Doing research for a report like this one usually results in a lot of interesting general statistics being gathered. Though we couldn't use these statistics in the body of this report, we didn't them to go to waste. We hope you enjoy reading them as much as we enjoyed gathering them.

Interesting general statistics:

71% of people believe in love at first sight.

18% said looks were most important; 60% said personality was.

53% said they have dated more than one person simultaneously.

62% said people's expectations are too high.

30% said a date becomes a relationship after 2 months, 13% said after they had sex.

90% of the American population marries; and 50% of first marriages end in divorce; 62% of second marriages end in divorce.

And here's a heartening statistic with which to end this report:

According to menstuff.org, 90% of men and women in their survey believe it is possible to be happy with the same person for a lifetime!

Okay, now you know where you want to go—but where do you start? How do you get there? What should you do first? As with any journey, there are road signs, driving directions, and roadmaps.

Jackie Black, Ph.D., internationally recognized relationship educator, author and coach whose breadth and depth of experience attracts clients from all over the world, has mapped your journey for you.

MEETING YOUR MATCH—Cracking the code to successful relationships is the complete road map. Dr. Jackie's book is for everyone who is ready to identify what you are looking for in a partner; ready to know yourself so that you can recognize the right life partner; and ready to do what you can do to build the kind of relationship we all long to have. Meeting Your Match is your guide to how to make a relationship work, and navigate the world of dating.

Stop off at ***RelationshipTalk Podcast™*** with Dr Jackie. These Podcasts are featured in the iTunes.com music store and are available to listen to directly from your computer or download right to your iPod or MP3 player. Dr. Jackie's Podcasts are fast-paced and jam-packed with valuable tips and strategies about dating; building a committed, lasting relationship; divorce and grief recovery. Get everything you need to know about dating and love relationships right here.

Dr. Jackie's Relationship Articles are available to read directly at ***Dr. Jackie Expert Author*** or subscribe and each new article will be delivered directly into your email box. These articles feature Relationship Tips about dating; building lasting, committed relationships; increasing intimacy; resolving conflict; grieving the loss of a loved one; money; and much more. You won't find Relationship Tips like Dr. Jackie's anywhere else!

Take three free online "Readiness" Assessment quizzes. Find out if you are ready for a loving relationship, ready to make a commitment to a long-term relationship, or ready to make changes in your relationship life by working with a relationship coach.

Dr. Jackie's "Readiness" Assessments

Driving directions are outlined in ***Dr. Jackie's eBooklets – Essential Keys to Dating***. Check out these "Keys" to unlock the mystery of dating and building a solid, committed relationship. This series includes 13 individual eBooklets that focus on specific aspects and skills to guide you in building the relationships you want and desire.

Only YOU know where you're going. Only YOU know when you've arrived.

Only You can make it happen!

