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The effects of gender and relationship status on sex drive

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ABSTRACT

In this study, the effects of gender and relationship status were investigated on sex drive among 534 participants. The purpose was to provide support for the fact that sex drive, from an evolutionary point of view, is susceptible to situations where procreation is concerned. Sex drive was assessed by means of an online questionnaire based on evolutionary adaptations underlying sexual behaviour. Analysis of covariance showed that, in general, men have a higher sex drive than women and singles have a higher sex drive than people in a relationship. Single women have a higher sex drive than women with a partner, but single men and men with a partner do not differ in terms of the strength of their sex drive. These results are in line with studies of sexual selection and parental investment, where evolved behavioural manifestations of sex drive facilitate male competition and female rivalry for access to a partner.