

Article: Communication in Relationships

Inferential Test: Independent t-test

Excerpt from the Research Article

The married sample comprised members of 100 heterosexual couples (54% were women and 46% were men) from a Midwestern university. The dating sample also consisted of members of 100 heterosexual couples (59% were women and 41% were men) from the same Midwestern university. All the married and dating couples were Euro-American. A researcher selected subjects in a haphazard fashion and asked them to complete a short survey.... The mean age of the sample was 26.7 years ($SD = 2.6$).

The Affectionate Communication Index is a 19-item index that...assesses the amount of verbal and nonverbal affectionate communication and support on a 7-point...scale, with anchors of 1 = partners *always* engage in this type of affectionate activity to 7 = partners *never* engage in this type of activity. [Thus, *lower* scores indicate *more* affectionate communication. Table 1 shows the results for the nonverbal activities.]

Table 1
Dating and Married Individuals' Reports of Nonverbal Affectionate Communication

Item		<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>t</i>
Hold hands	Dating	100	3.7	1.9	3.3 [†]
	Married	100	2.9	1.7	
Kiss on the lips	Dating	100	2.9	1.5	4.9 [†]
	Married	100	2.0	1.1	
Kiss on the cheeks	Dating	100	3.6	1.6	4.5 [†]
	Married	100	2.7	1.3	
Give massages to each other	Dating	100	4.2	1.8	5.0 [†]
	Married	99	2.5	1.8	
Put arm around shoulder	Dating	100	3.6	1.8	4.6 [†]
	Married	92	2.5	1.5	

Table 1 continued on next page →

[†] Source: Punyanunt-Carter, N. M. (2004). Reported affectionate communication and satisfaction in marital and dating relationships. *Psychological Reports*, 95, 1154–1160. Copyright © 2004 by Psychological Reports. Reprinted with permission.