

Accuracy in perceptions of a partner's sexual goals

Elsaadawy et al. (2022)

Can you tell why your partner wants to have sex? What impact would this have on your relationship or sexual satisfaction?



Method

121 couples, most white, indicated in 21 nightly diaries whether they had sex, and if they did, who initiated, and why they think they initiated it (whether it be themselves or their partner). They also reported their relationship and sexual satisfaction

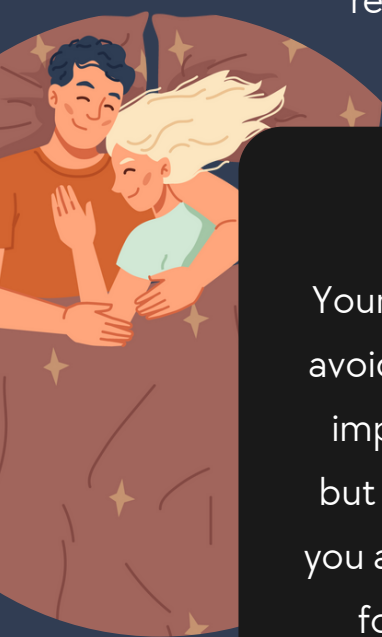
Results showed that...

whether you accurately recognized why your partner wanted to have sex was not associated with relationship or sexual satisfaction.



However...

for men and long term partners, when they think their partner wanted to have sex for reasons that were perceived as more **socially** desirable, their reported relationship and sexual satisfaction was greater.



In Summary...

Your ability to recognize your partner's goals (i.e., to avoid an argument or for pleasure) does not have an impact on your relationship or sexual satisfaction, but when you perceive it as being socially desirable you are more likely to be sexually satisfied, especially for longer relationships and if you were a man.



Elsaadawy, N., Impett, E. A., Raposo, S., & Muise, A. (2022). Accuracy in perceptions of a partner's sexual goals. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 39(5), 1277–1293. <https://doi.org/10.1177/02654075211051788>