

Generalizability of results from dyadic data: Participation of one versus two members of a romantic couple is associated with breakup likelihood

Are couples who participate together any less likely to break up than coupled participants who participate alone in research?

Data From Two Longitudinal Studies Were Analyzed

One was the National Survey of Families and Households wherein one randomly selected participant from various households were asked if their partner may also participate, for a total of 5,118 participants, of which, 4,358 participated with their partner.



The other was a 10-year longitudinal data from a study focussing on couple relationships and family dynamics wherein participants in a relationship were asked if their partner may also participate, for a total of 5,194 participants, of which, 2,939 participated with their partner.



Over the follow-up period, participants were asked whether they were still in a relationship with the same partner.

Results Showed That...

Overall, relationships wherein only one partner participated were more likely to have dissolved than relationships wherein both partners agreed to and participated in the study.



In Short

The findings of this study suggest caution when interpreting and/or generalizing findings in research wherein both partners participate (i.e., dyadic research), as these participants may be in a more committed relationship than those who are not willing to participate or do not have a partner willing to participate in such research.



Park, Y., Impett, E. A., & MacDonald, G. (2021). Generalizability of results from dyadic data: Participation of one versus two members of a romantic couple is associated with breakup likelihood. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 47, 232-240.