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The Association between Promiscuity and Marital Satisfaction

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Introduction

- Research has suggested that premarital cohabitation is linked to a heightened risk of divorce and dissatisfaction if it occurs with someone other than the marriage partner (Teachman, 2004).
- The number of partners is linked to marital dissatisfaction for both men and women (Legkauskas & Stankevičienė, 2008).
- Involvement in church groups is linked to a 5x increase in likelihood of abstinence (Paul *et al*, 2000).
- Previous studies have used small sample sizes with little diversity and few men. However, my research will use a large, diverse sample size with both men and women.

Research Questions

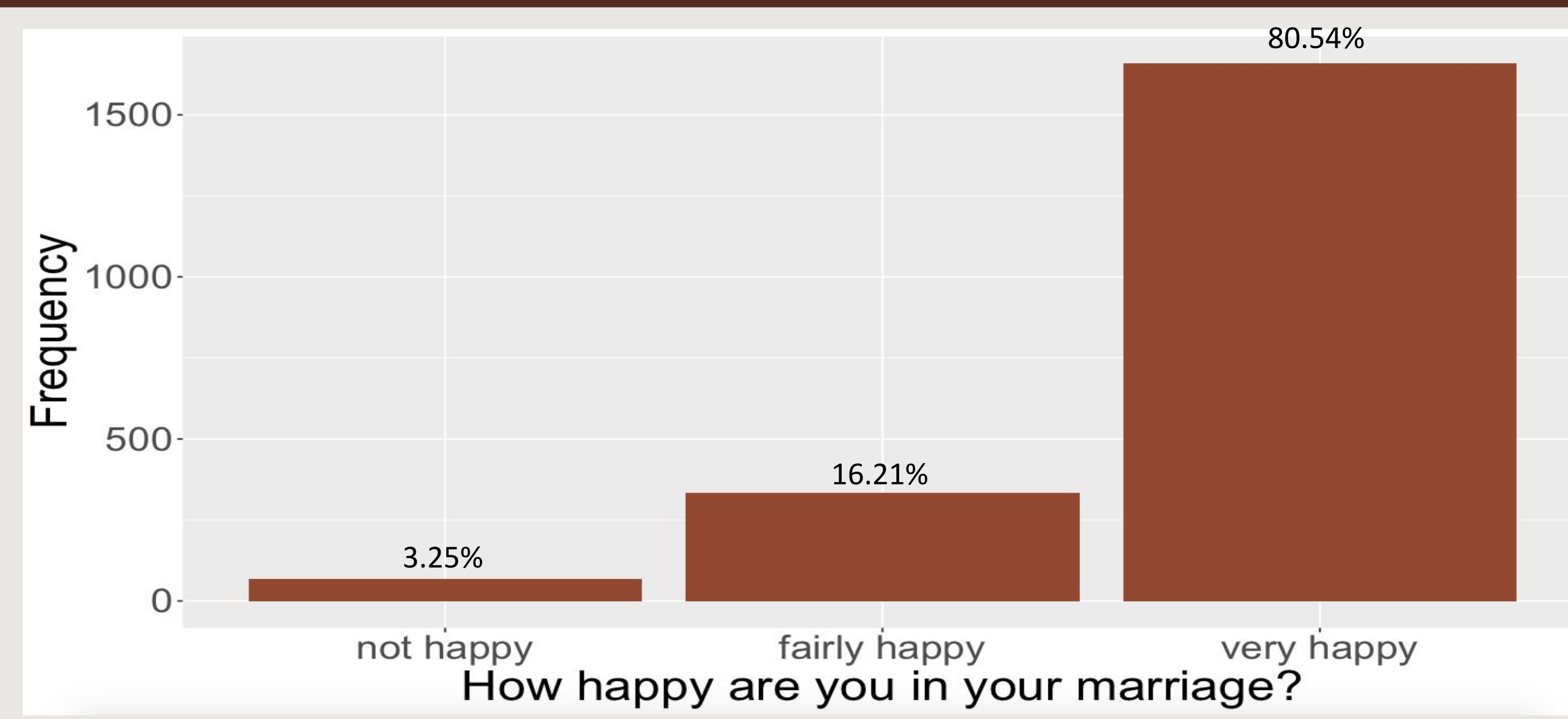
- 1) Is there a relationship between promiscuity and marital satisfaction?
- 2) Does faith impact marital satisfaction and sexual abstinence?

Methodology

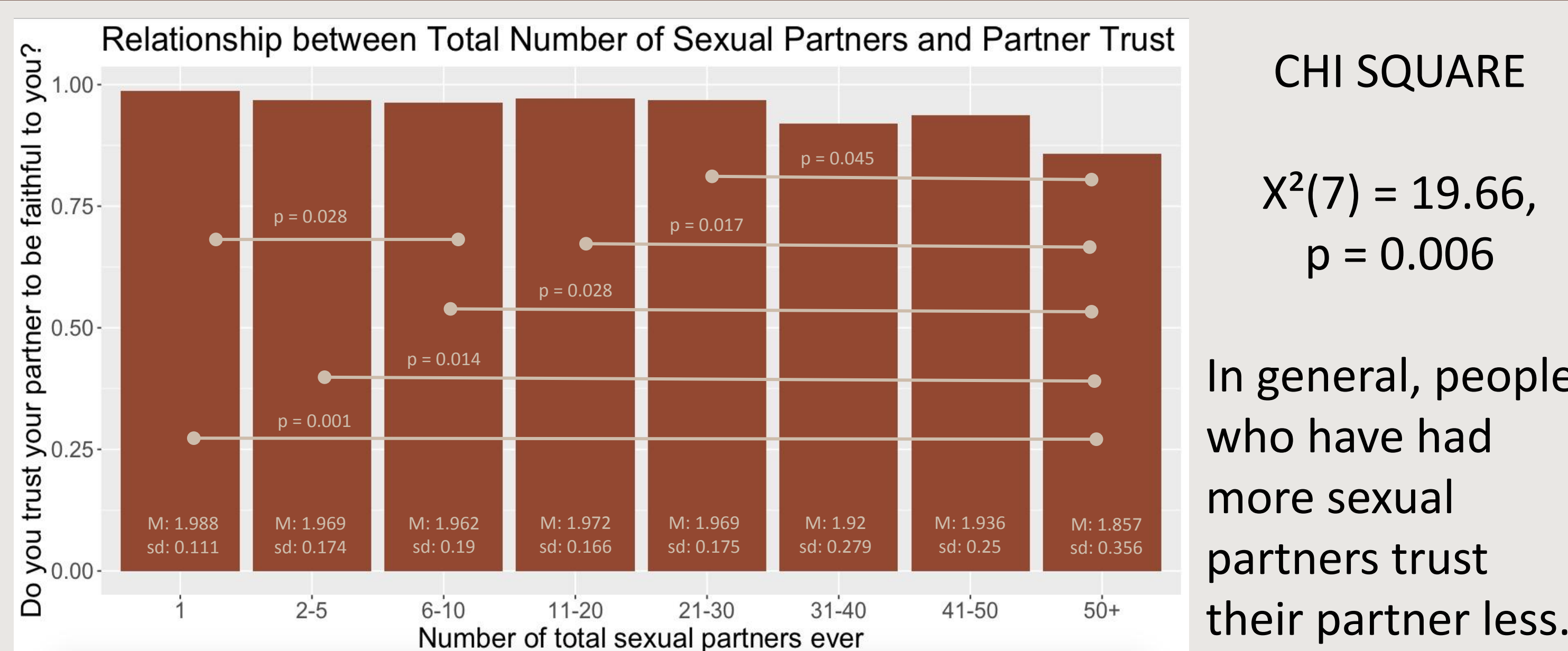
- Sample: AddHealth Wave IV: 2,090 currently married participants aged 25 to 34; 65% White, 21% Black, 5% multiracial, 3% Asian/Pacific Islander, 1% Indian or Native American, and 5% Other
- Information was collected from a group of adults originally tested in adolescence using an at-home questionnaire.

Question	Response
How old were you the first time you had vaginal intercourse?	Range: 4-29 years
With how many partners have you ever had vaginal intercourse with?	Range: 1-210 persons
What is the current status of your marriage?	1=living together, 2=living apart because of other reason (not divorce)
How many other sexual partners have you ever lived with for one month or more?	Range: 0-20 partners
In general, how happy are you in your marriage?	1=not too happy, 2=fairly happy, 3=very happy
I trust my partner to be faithful to me.	1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=neither agree nor disagree, 4=agree, 5=strongly disagree
What is the total number of years you have been in a romantic or sexual relationship with your partner?	Range: 0-18 years
How many other partners do you currently have?	Range: 0-6

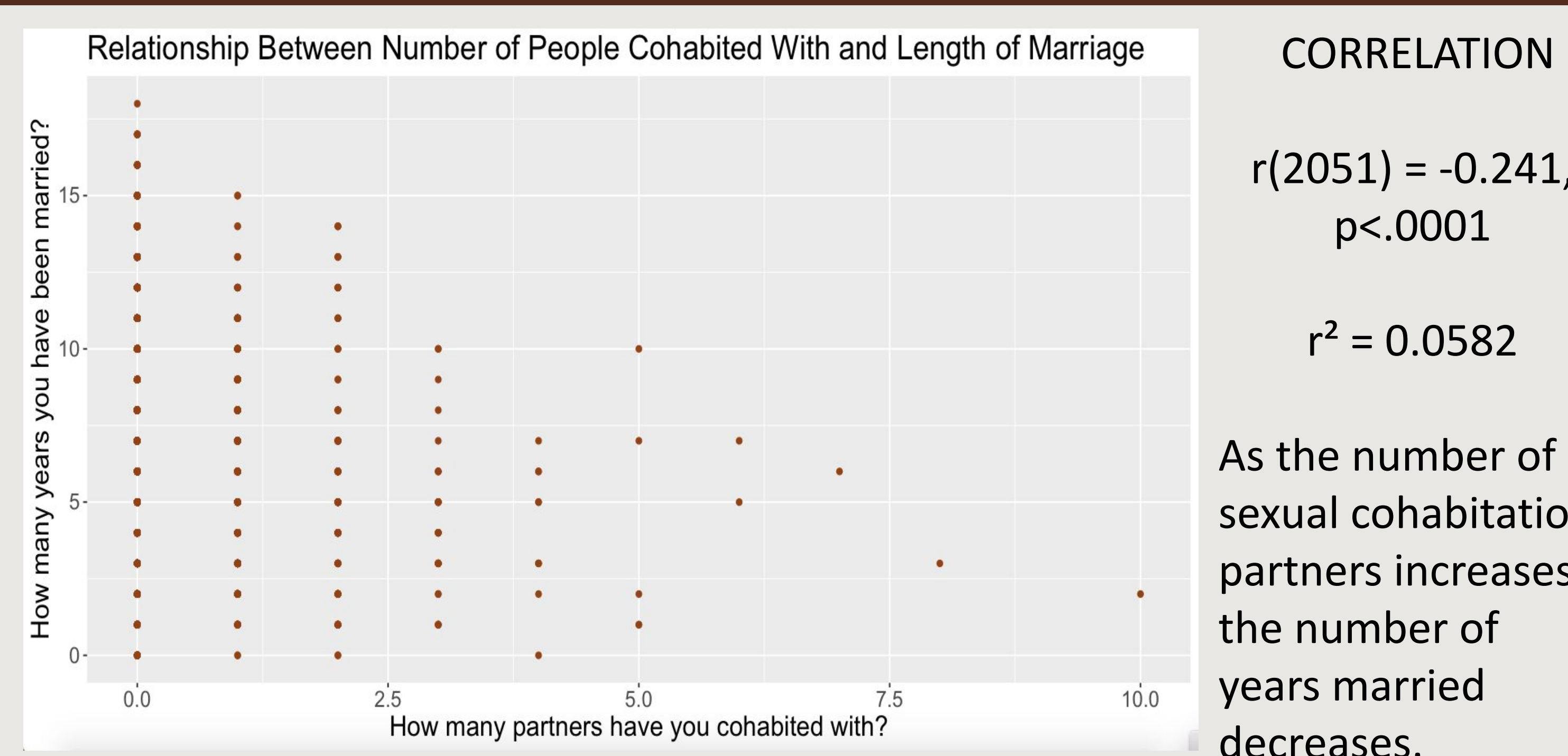
Marital Happiness



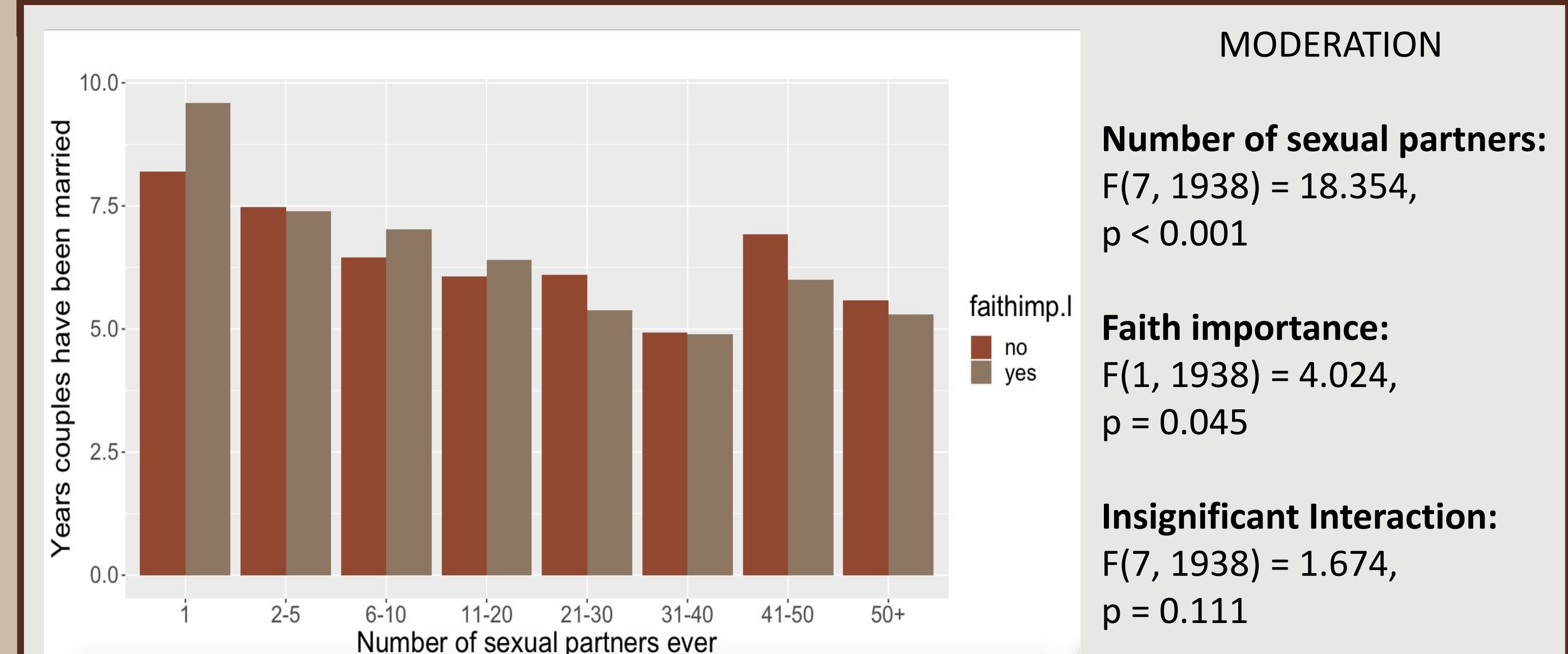
Relationship between number of sexual partners and partner trust



Is there a relationship between romantic cohabitation and length of marriage?



Is there a relationship between number of sexual partners and length of marriage in relation to faith importance?



As one's marriage length increases, the number of sexual partners decreases. People whose faith is important to them generally report having less sexual partners. However, there is no interaction between the three variables.

Take Home Message

- 1) There is evidence that shows that those who are less promiscuous are more likely to be satisfied in their marriages.
- 2) A higher faith importance is related to less sexual experiences.

Discussion

- A married adult's promiscuity has implications in their level of marital satisfaction.
- Adults who are more promiscuous are more likely to have marital dissatisfaction, lack of trust in their partner, and shorter marriages.
- Future research could focus on the likelihood of divorce and cheating tendencies.

References

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