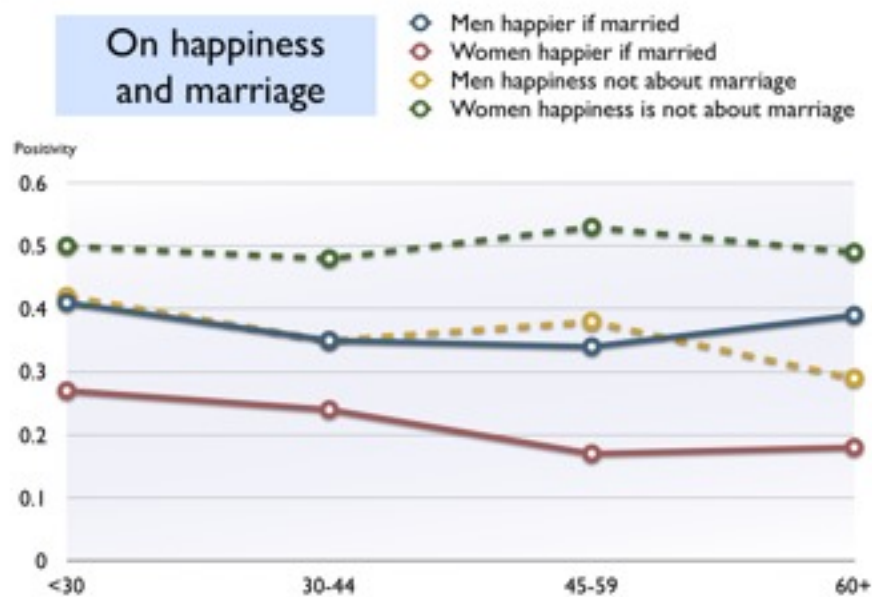


GENDER DIFFERENCES

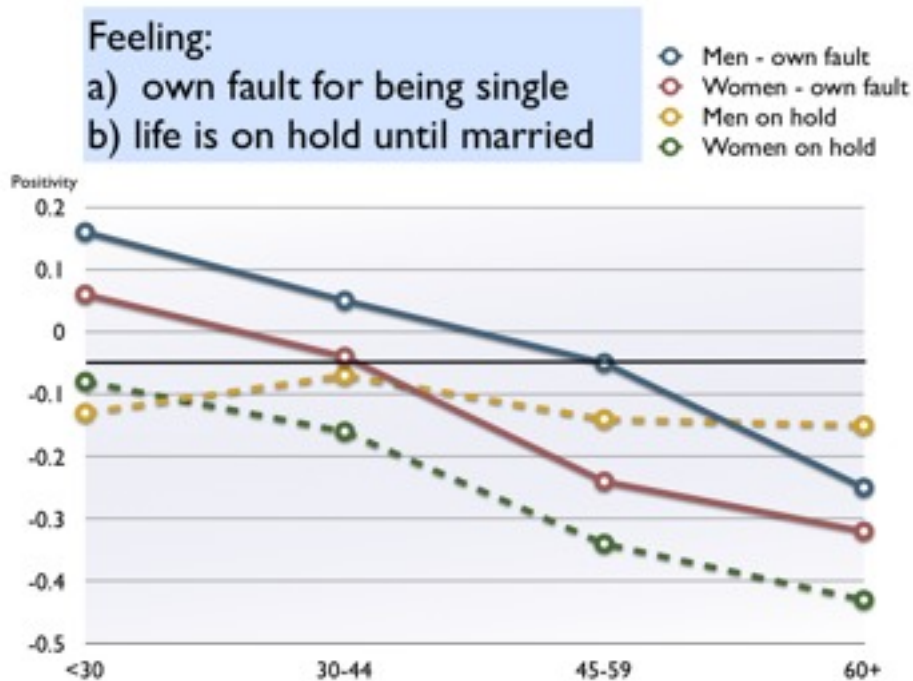
Summary

Men manage being single less well than women, in terms of happiness, acceptance of being single, management of their lives day to day, and their faith. Men find sex before marriage more acceptable than women. They look in different places to find potential partners and are more likely to be found in some different types of church.

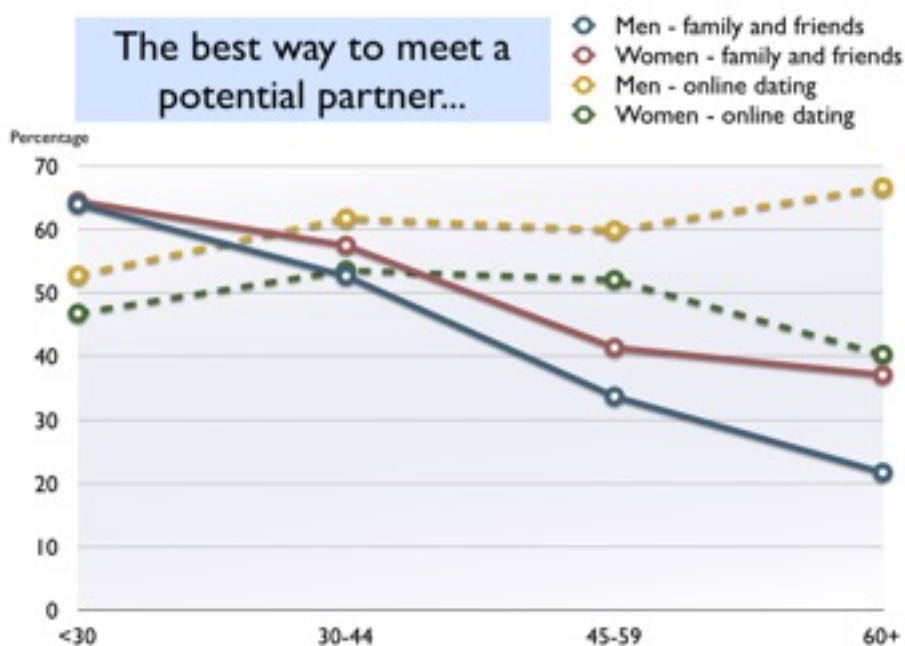
Through all ages men agree they will be happier married than women and think that happiness is more about being married.



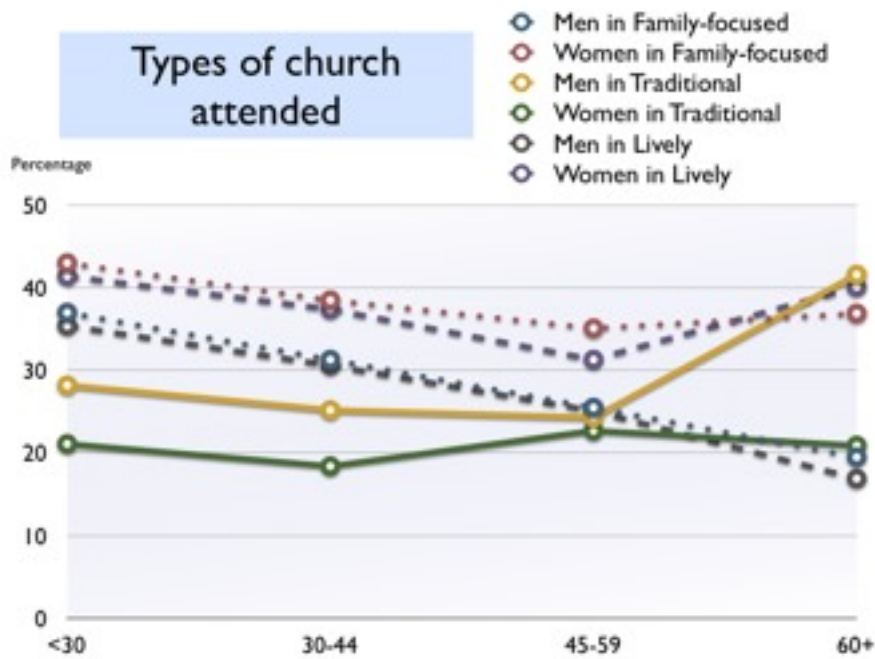
Men, much more than women, keep their lives on hold until married - and think it is their own fault that they are single. Most women past 30 think it is not their own fault, but men continue to think so until 60.



Men and women look in different places to meet a potential partner



More men attend a traditional kind of church and more women attend family-focused and lively churches in all age groups and particularly apparent in the 60+ age group.



Overview

Gender differences

There are many differences between men and women's experience of being single and their attitudes and views. However, the ages interact strongly with some differences, and shed light on the kinds of reason which might underlie the gender differences. Therefore we will look at gender differences and also at age within the gender differences, using the same four age groups as previously.

71% of the respondents were female and 29% male. This is both typical of the proportion that people believe to be in the church and of respondents to surveys generally. The data describes the percentage of women and percentage of the men in reporting and answering questions, so is comparable.

Church attendance

There are no denominational differences for the genders in church attendance.

A higher percentage of men (27%) than women (20%) attend a Traditional kind of church at every age. Many more men who are 60+ say that they do so (42%).

A higher percentage of women (38%) than men (30%) attend a family-focused kind of church at every age. Attendance declines for both genders as they get older, but men's attendance declines faster and there is slight increase amongst the women when 60+.

A high percentage of women (37%) than men (29%) attend a Lively kind of church at every age. Attendance declines for both genders as they get older, but women's suddenly increases when 60+.

This means that for 60+ age group, men and women are increasingly to be found in different kinds of church.

Gender differences on singleness

Men (26%), over 1 in 4, agree that sometimes people who discover they are single assume they are gay, compared to 16% women. However there are age differences in that younger men <30 (32%) say that they experience this more and then reports decline, whereas women's experience increases at 30 and then is relatively stable.

If you are a man <30, single people appear to be receiving the presumption that you should be in a heterosexual relationship and, if not, you might be gay. Whereas if you are a woman >30, you haven't found someone so there might be a suspicion of not wanted to be married.

Women (56%) say that they enjoy or don't have problems going to social functions alone more than men (49%). The under 30 and over 60 are very similar and show an increase. It is 30-60 men that say that have most problems or enjoy it least (with a 10% difference to the women). If we were to take the national UK reported average, 2 women to every man among the single adults that attend church, and apply the percentages (assuming those who don't enjoy or have problems going to social functions don't go), then for the 30 - 60 age group the proportion becomes close to 4 women to every man.

Single women (44%) say that they enjoy or don't have any problems in being among married couples and children, compared to single men (37%). The age differences are striking. For men, there is a sharp decline at 60, whereas for women there is a decline at 45 continuing at 60. Although speculation, this may well be the age points at which the different genders accept they will not have children and find it harder being around them.

Women (50%) say that, because single, they enjoy having the space and time to devoted themselves to faith/prayer more than the men (42%) at every age. After a very slight decline among the 30-45 year old women, the 60+ age group enjoy it most. The men's enjoyment declines at 30 and again at 60.

Family and friends - single women are more sociable

Women (54%) say that, because single, they enjoy having the chance to spend more time with friends and family more than men (41%) at every age. Women's enjoyment drops and then stabilises at 45 (at 48%), whereas men report their enjoyment as continuing to drop ending at 21% for the 60+ age group.

Half of single women (50%) say that they socialise with close friends at least once per week, compared to 40% men. The under 30 age group is similar for both genders, then men's social life with friends drops rapidly and stays low. Women's declines but then increases at 60+.

The comparison between reported activities and enjoyment is interesting. Both genders report meeting up with close friends each week but, when 60+, enjoy it less, because single.

[DN graph]

Singleness and faith - women agree being single has made their faith stronger

Single women (53%) agree or strongly agree that in some ways being single has made their faith stronger, compared to men (39%) and do so at every age group. Women increasingly agree with the statement through the age groups. There is a drop for 30 – 60 year old men.

Single men (66%) agree or strongly agree that having a partner in their life would strengthen their faith much more than women (47%) at every age group. Generally agreement for both genders decreases over time.

Dating - men date more than women

Single adults concern over the gender imbalance would be expected to differ and it does. Notably, more men (20% - 1 in 5) state that they have never been aware of any imbalance, compared to women (8%). This unawareness decreases over time for both genders.

62% men state they are concerned about the gender imbalance, because it lessens the chance of finding a husband. This concern is stable until 45 and then suddenly drops. 35% men state that they are rather glad about the gender imbalance, as it improves their chance of finding a wife. This gradually declines over the age groups.

Single men (51%) more than single women (38%) say that have dated quite often or a few times in the last year. They report this as being true for every age group. There is a drop and decline for women when they reach 45, whereas no such drop is apparent among single men.

A hypothesis for this data is that some men are not dating (in line with the larger number of never-married men in UK society compared with never-married women) whereas others are dating sequentially. Moreover the data suggests either that older men date different women much more frequently than single women have dates, or that they are dating younger women or non-Christians.

Although both genders when under 30 state that the one of the best ways to meet potential partners is through family and friends (64% men and 65% women), men more rapidly move away from this idea than women, until the difference is nearly half amongst 60+ group.

Men are much keener on the use of online dating sites and social networks, with 60% reporting that it is one of the best ways to meet potential partners compared to 51% of

women. This is true for every age group. Both men and women among 30 – 60 year olds think it better than other age groups, however, among the 60+ men get keener on it, women less keen.

Combining these two statements about the best way to meet partners, there are diverging views about the best way to meet a potential partner, meaning that people are looking in different places.

The genders on sex

A higher percentage of women (54%) than men (44%) agree that sex belongs only in marriage and that they are fine with that. This is true for every age group, although both decline. The percentage agreeing drops below half when men reach 30 and when women reach 45. The biggest drop for both sexes comes at 45.

A higher percentage of women (49%) than men (36%) agree that avoiding sex before marriage is of the utmost importance. This is again true for every age group. The patterns are slightly different in that there is a large drop when men reach 30 and the percentages stabilise at around 1 in 3, whereas the stabilisation for women happens at 45.

More men (32%) than women (25%) think that all or most Christians practice what they believe about no sex before marriage. Both decline, but women more than men. In other words, women think that fewer Christians practice what they believe. This is in line with the view that there are relatively fewer dating men than women, and that they are more prepared to think it OK to have sex before marriage. Thus the men dating for long periods, or who are non-dating, practice and believe others practice no sex before marriage, but the women - who experience larger a relatively larger number of men through dating - report that the men don't practice what they believe.

More men (41%) than women (24%) say that they struggle with their thoughts and feelings about sex. This is true for every age group. Men's struggle only declines when reaching 45 and then is gradual, whereas women's struggle declines through all age groups.

More men (18%) than women (10%) say that they feel guilty about their sexual behaviour. True for every age group, both decline, either because they decide they will not consider what they do as guilt-making or because they are not doing anything that could cause guilt.

More women (42%) than men (32%) say that they think the church's teaching on sex has deterred someone they know from making or staying with their Christian commitment.

This is true for every age group. This declines and then stabilises for women when they reach 45 and declines for men until 60 and then increases.

GENDER – AGE DIFFERENCES

Methodology

All relationships presented below are derived from identified associations which are significant at the $P < 0.001$ level.

(Although $P < 0.05$ is the conventional level of significance employed in scientific research, a more stringent threshold was used in this study, in order to account for multiple testing. Applying this more stringent P -value threshold substantially reduces the amount of false-positives reported from the data / information collected in this survey).

The following statistically significant differences by gender - age were identified:

- Description of church most often attend:
 - More men (27.1%) than women (20.4%) attend a traditional type of church.

Age Group	Men (%)	Women (%)
<30	28.2	21.1
30-44	25.2	18.4
45-59	24.3	22.7
60+	41.6	20.9
Comment:	Stable, increase after 60+	Stable (non-significant age differences)

- More women (38.1%) than men (29.7%) attend a family focused type of church.

Age Group	Men (%)	Women (%)
<30	37.0	43.0
30-44	31.3	38.5
45-59	25.5	35.1
60+	19.5	36.9
Comment:	Graded decrease	Graded decrease (stable after 45+)

- More women (36.5%) than men (28.7%) attend a lively type of church.

Age Group	Men (%)	Women (%)
<30	35.4	41.4
30-44	30.6	37.4
45-59	25.1	31.3
60+	16.9	40.1
Comment:	Graded decrease	U-shaped (or, decreases up to 59, then increases at 60+)

- How helpful do you find your church leaders' advice on relationships and issues of singleness?

- More women (50.5%) than men (40.5%) state that they find it 'unhelpful' or 'church leaders give very little guidance.'

Age Group	Men (%)	Women (%)
<30	30.7	46.3
30-44	38.8	51.5
45-59	43.5	50.4
60+	56.2	50.5
Comment:	Graded increase	Relatively stable over time (reduced only in <30)

- Marriage and happiness:

- More men (63%) than women (48.8%) agree that being married would make them happier

Age Group	Men (%)	Women (%)
<30	71.1	53.5
30-44	60.5	50.4
45-59	61.6	44.1
60+	62.0	48.8
Comment:	Higher only in <30, then stable	Decrease up to 59, then increases

Positivity Rating

Age Group	Men	Women
<30	0.41	0.27
30-44	0.35	0.24
45-59	0.34	0.17
60+	0.39	0.18
Comment:	U-shaped (Higher in <30, then stable until 59, then higher in 60+)	Graded decrease to 59 up

- More women (66.9%) than men (55.2%) agree that they would be happy as a single person and would also be happy if married.

Age Group	Men (%)	Women (%)
<30	56.3	69.1
30-44	53.1	65.4
45-59	55.5	66.8
60+	61.2	63.1
Comment:	Stable, increases after 60+	Graded decrease

Positivity Rating

Age Group	Men	Women
<30	0.27	0.38
30-44	0.20	0.31
45-59	0.18	0.35
60+	0.27	0.27
Comment:	U-shaped (Higher in <30, then stable until 59, then higher in 60+)	Overall decrease throughout life

- More women (79.8%) than men (67.9%) agree that happiness isn't really about whether one is married or not.

Age Group	Men (%)	Women (%)
<30	72.3	79.8
30-44	66.7	77.9
45-59	68.2	82.2
60+	67.7	81.6
Comment:	Small decrease	Non-significant difference

Positivity Rating

Age Group	Men	Women
<30	0.42	0.50
30-44	0.35	0.48
45-59	0.38	0.53
60+	0.29	0.49
Comment:	Overall decrease throughout the life course	Non-significant difference

- Being single, what do they enjoy:
 - More women (50.3%) than men (42.4%) enjoy having the space and time to devote themselves to faith/prayer.

Age Group	Men (%)	Women (%)
<30	49.7	50.5
30-44	41.2	48.3
45-59	41.1	50.5
60+	37.5	58.0
Comment:	Graded decrease	Stable, increases only after 60+

- More women (53.5%) than men (40.9%) enjoy having the chance to spend more time with friends and family.

Age Group	Men (%)	Women (%)
<30	49.3	63.7
30-44	46.2	55.1
45-59	35.1	47.5
60+	21.2	47.7
Comment:	Graded decrease	Graded decrease until 45 (then stable)

- Feelings about being single:
 - More men (31.1%) than women (25%) agree that they feel as if their life is on hold until they get married.

Age Group	Men (%)	Women (%)
<30	33.1	34.1
30-44	33.8	30.8
45-59	28.9	15.4
60+	23.8	10.9
Comment:	Decrease after 45	Graded decrease

Positivity Rating

Age Group	Men	Women
<30	-0.13	-0.08
30-44	-0.07	-0.16
45-59	-0.14	-0.34
60+	-0.15	-0.43
Comment:	Non-significant difference	Graded decrease

- More men (40.6%) than women (33.7%) agree that they feel it is their fault that they are single.

Age Group	Men (%)	Women (%)
<30	53.1	45.7
30-44	41.0	37.4
45-59	36.1	26.0
60+	29.2	18.8
Comment:	Graded decrease	Graded decrease

Positivity Rating

Age Group	Men	Women
<30	0.16	0.06
30-44	0.05	-0.04
45-59	-0.05	-0.24
60+	-0.25	-0.32
Comment:	Graded decrease	Graded decrease

- More men (25.7%) than women (16.3%) agree that sometimes people who discover they are single assume that they are gay.

Age Group	Men (%)	Women (%)
<30	31.5	13.1
30-44	27.5	18.4
45-59	23.1	15.2
60+	15.4	15.3
Comment:	Graded decrease	Increase after 30, then relatively stable

Positivity Rating

Age Group	Men	Women
<30	-0.09	-0.54
30-44	-0.16	-0.36
45-59	-0.23	-0.42
60+	-0.40	-0.46
Comment:	Graded decrease	Increase after 30, then relative decrease

- How easy do you find doing things alone:
 - More women (57.5%) than men (49.2%) state that they enjoy or don't have any problems in going to social functions alone.

Age Group	Men (%)	Women (%)
<30	50.0	51.0
30-44	46.9	56.8
45-59	48.0	60.6
60+	61.6	62.2
Comment:	Stable up 59, increase after 60+	Graded increase

- More women (43.7%) than men (37.1%) state that they enjoy or don't have any problems in being amongst married couples and children.

Age Group	Men (%)	Women (%)
<30	38.0	46.5
30-44	35.8	48.3
45-59	40.5	39.5
60+	25.0	30.4
Comment:	Decrease after 60+	Graded decrease after 45+

- More women (48.6%) than men (26.8%) state that they enjoy or don't have any problems in being responsible for everything in their life both inside and outside of the home.

Age Group	Men (%)	Women (%)
<30	22.6	35.3
30-44	22.6	48.4
45-59	30.9	56.3
60+	38.5	47.4
Comment:	Graded increase	Increase up to 59, then decrease

- Frequency of involvement in activities:
 - More women (49.9%) than men (39.2%) state that they socialise with close friends at least once each week.

Age Group	Men (%)	Women (%)
<30	60.0	59.2
30-44	34.3	51.2
45-59	33.5	40.8
60+	36.9	57.0
Comment:	Higher at <30, large decrease, then stable	U-shaped. Graded decrease up to 59, then increase

- Impact of singleness on faith:
 - More women (53%) than men (38.5%) agree or strongly agree that in some ways being single has made their faith stronger.

Age Group	Men (%)	Women (%)
<30	44.8	48.8
30-44	36.7	51.6
45-59	36.6	55.5
60+	39.7	58.8
Comment:	U-shaped	Graded increase

- More men (65.6%) than women (46.6%) agree or strongly agree that having a partner in their life would strengthen them in their faith.

Age Group	Men (%)	Women (%)
<30	72.3	60.3
30-44	67.9	50.0
45-59	53.8	38.4
60+	58.8	36.9
Comment:	Graded decrease up to 59	Graded decrease

Positivity Rating

Age Group	Men	Women
<30	0.44	0.30
30-44	0.39	0.21
45-59	0.23	0.09
60+	0.29	0.08
Comment:	Graded decrease up to 59	Graded decrease

- Frequency of dating:

- More men (50.8%) than women (37.9%) go on dates either quite often or a few times in the last year.

Age Group	Men (%)	Women (%)
<30	48.0	41.3
30-44	54.5	41.7
45-59	47.5	32.7
60+	51.6	31.4
Comment:	No clear pattern	Decrease after 44

- The best way to meet potential partners:

- More women (52.1%) than men (46.1%) state that one of the best ways to meet potential partners is through family and friends.

Age Group	Men (%)	Women (%)
<30	64.0	64.5
30-44	52.7	57.5
45-59	33.7	41.4
60+	21.7	37.1
Comment:	Graded decrease	Graded decrease

- More men (59.9%) than women (50.8%) state that one of the best ways to meet potential partners is through online dating sites and social networks.

Age Group	Men (%)	Women (%)
<30	52.8	46.8
30-44	61.8	53.6
45-59	59.9	52.1
60+	66.7	40.3
Comment:	Graded increase (but stable 30-59)	Increase after 30, stable until 59, then decrease

- Do you think most Christians actually practice what they believe (or are taught) about sex before marriage?
 - More men (31.5%) than women (24.9%) think that all or most Christians do practice what they believe about no sex before marriage.

Age Group	Men (%)	Women (%)
<30	37.0	33.3
30-44	33.5	26.0
45-59	27.5	20.1
60+	25.0	18.5
Comment:	Graded decrease	Graded decrease

- View on sex before marriage:
 - More women (53.5%) than men (43.5%) state that sex belongs only in marriage and that they are fine with that.

Age Group	Men (%)	Women (%)
<30	50.8	59.2
30-44	47.6	56.1
45-59	36.6	48.7
60+	34.9	46.8
Comment:	Graded decrease	Graded decrease

- Importance of avoiding sex before marriage:
 - More women (48.4%) than men (36.1) rate avoiding sex before marriage as of being of the utmost importance.

Age Group	Men (%)	Women (%)
<30	42.5	54.2
30-44	34.8	49.6
45-59	34.0	44.1
60+	36.1	46.9
Comment:	Decrease after 30, then stable	Graded decrease, stable after 45

- Do you think the church's teaching on sex tends to deter people making or staying with their Christian commitment?
 - More women (42.1%) than men (32.2%) state that they think this had an effect on someone they knew.

Age Group	Men (%)	Women (%)
<30	42.2	52.4
30-44	32.9	42.4
45-59	24.5	36.2
60+	33.3	38.9
Comment:	Graded decrease up to 59, then increases	Graded decrease, stable after 45

- How do you feel about there being more women than men in church?
 - 62% of women state that they are concerned because it lessens the chance of them finding a husband, whereas 35.3% of men state that are rather glad because it improves their chance of finding a wife.

Age Group	Men (%)	Women (%)
<30	38.8	67.1
30-44	36.1	68.1
45-59	33.9	54.1
60+	29.1	48.1
Comment:	Graded decrease	Stable up to 44, then graded decrease

- More men (20.2%) than women (7.6%) state that they have never been aware of this imbalance in the church.

Age Group	Men (%)	Women (%)
<30	23.1	10.1
30-44	22.8	6.6
45-59	17.2	8.2
60+	12.7	5.8
Comment:	Graded decrease	Overall decreasing trend

- Would you be interested in attending an event or conference to raise awareness of singleness issues?

- More women (29.4%) than men (20.6%) state they would definitely attend such an event.

Age Group	Men (%)	Women (%)
<30	18.0	25.0
30-44	22.7	30.2
45-59	22.1	30.2
60+	11.5	30.9
Comment:	Lower at <30, then stable until 59, then decrease	Lower only at <30, then stable

- How do you feel your own church could better encourage its single members?

- More men (68.1%) than women (58.7%) state that a member of the church leadership should be specifically accountable for singles ministry.

Age Group	Men (%)	Women (%)
<30	73.5	61.8
30-44	65.7	57.1
45-59	64.4	58.1
60+	79.7	62.8
Comment:	Graded decrease until 69, then increase	Non- significant difference / trend

- How do you feel about your own sexuality and sexual behaviour?

- More men (17.7%) than women (9.7%) state that they feel guilty about their sexual behaviour.

Age Group	Men (%)	Women (%)
<30	22.6	15.1
30-44	20.1	11.2
45-59	15.2	6.6
60+	5.0	2.6
Comment:	Graded decrease	Graded decrease

- More women (10.7%) than men (3.1%) state that they have been abused or mistreated sexually.

Age Group	Men (%)	Women (%)
<30	2.4	8.6
30-44	2.7	11.7
45-59	3.0	11.8
60+	6.7	5.8
Comment:	Graded increase	Increase after 30, then stable until 59, then decrease

- More men (40.5%) than women (23.9%) state that they struggle with their thoughts and feelings about sex.

Age Group	Men (%)	Women (%)
<30	43.5	33.0
30-44	45.6	26.2
45-59	35.0	19.9
60+	30.0	9.6
Comment:	Stable up to 44, then graded decrease	Graded decrease