



# 2016 Annual Relationship, Marriage, and Divorce Survey Final Report

# The Study

These findings are based on a non-probability online sample of data collected using the Research Now panel. Data was collected in March 2016. A sample of over 2000 U.S. adults age 18 and over were surveyed online. For this poll, the credibility interval was calculated to be plus or minus 2.5 percentage points for all respondents. The data were weighted to the U.S. current population data by gender, age, and region based on Census data.

Avvo conducts periodic studies of topics at the intersection of lifestyle and the law to better understand the issues facing individuals engaging with attorneys and the legal system. Given that divorce and family law are two of the largest and most routine legal actions taken in the United States, understanding the relationship dynamics that lead to marriage and divorce is beneficial to the legal consumers and attorneys Avvo serves.

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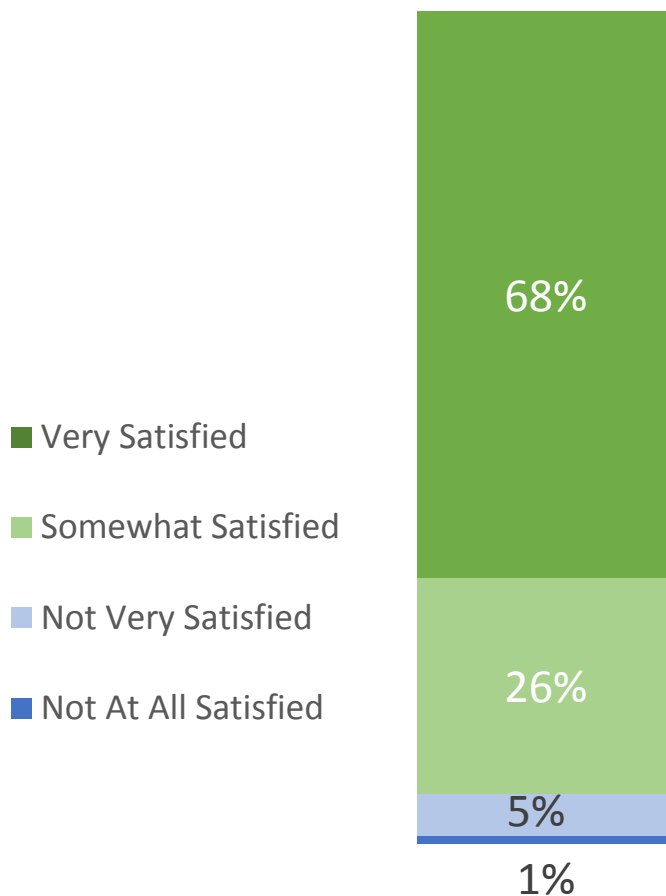


# Relationship Satisfaction

# Relationships are good

Most Americans are very satisfied in their relationships

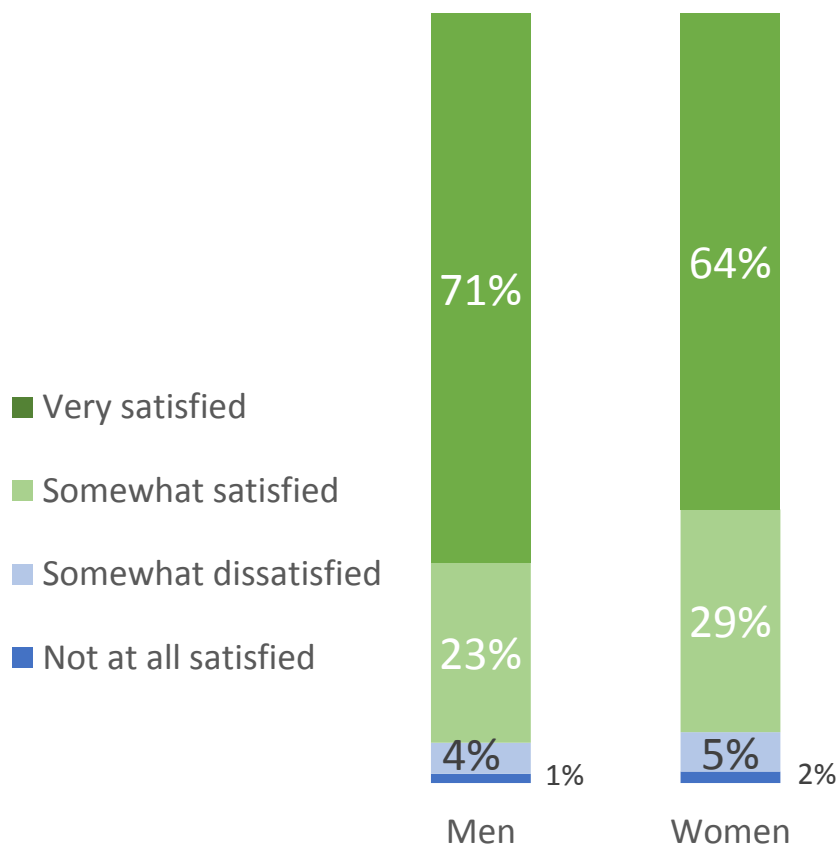
How satisfied would you say  
you feel in your current  
relationship?



# More women than men have something to complain about

Men are more likely than women to be “very” rather than “somewhat” satisfied

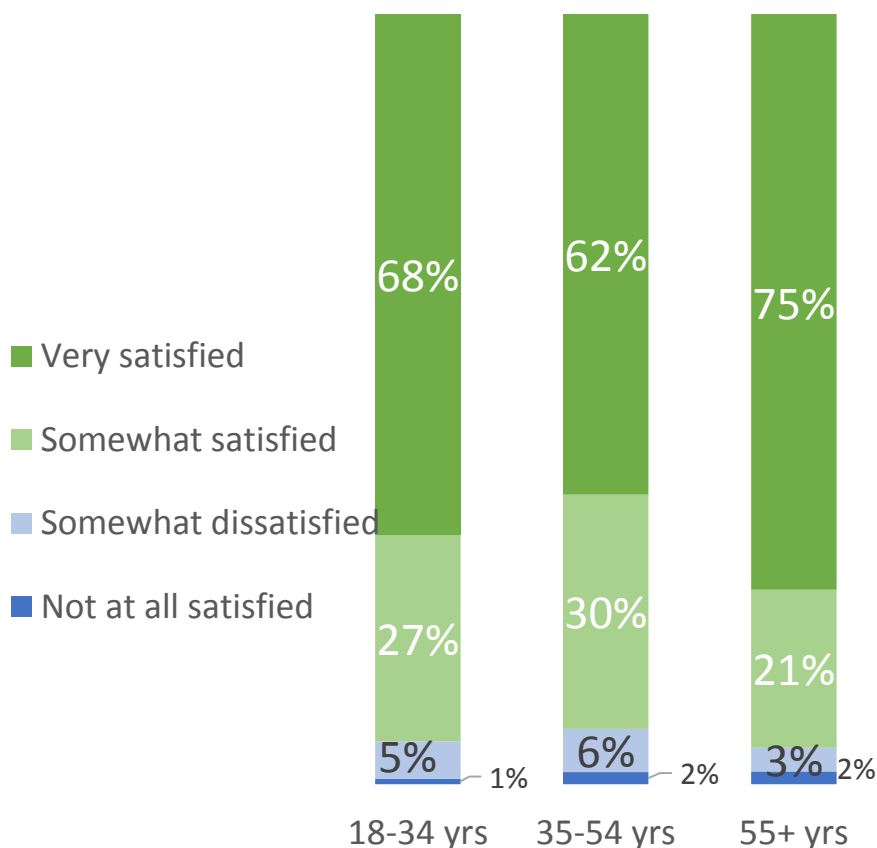
How satisfied would you say you feel in your current relationship?



# Those who stick it out reap more rewards

People over 55 are more likely to be “very” rather than “somewhat” satisfied

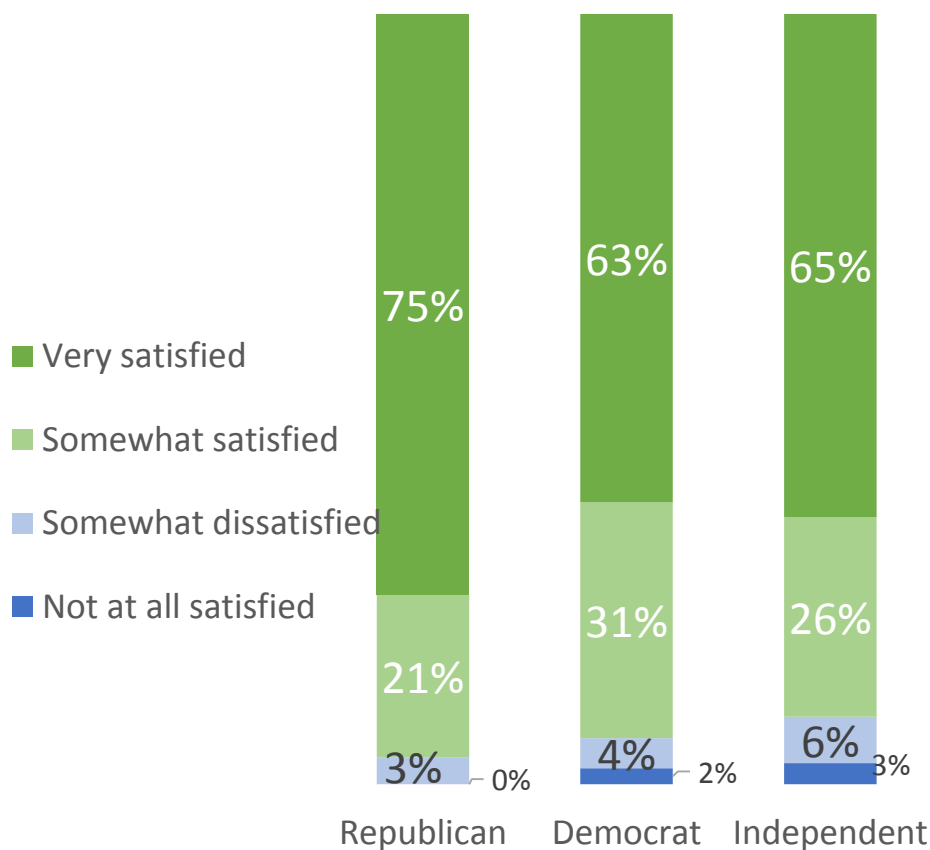
How satisfied would you say you feel in your current relationship?



# More Republicans than Democrats have it great

Republicans are more likely than Democrats to be “very” rather than “somewhat” satisfied

How satisfied would you say you feel in your current relationship?

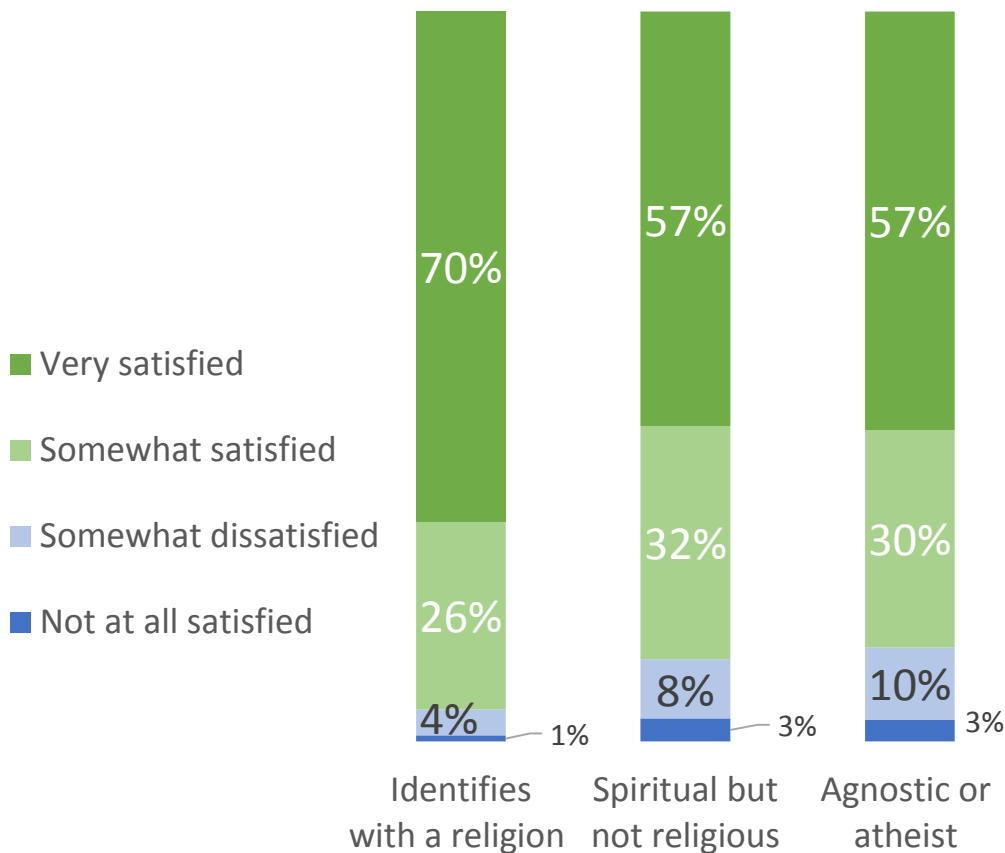




# You might like your partner more if you go to church

Those who identify with a formal religion (including Christianity, Judaism, Islam, and Buddhism) are more likely to be “very” rather than “somewhat” satisfied

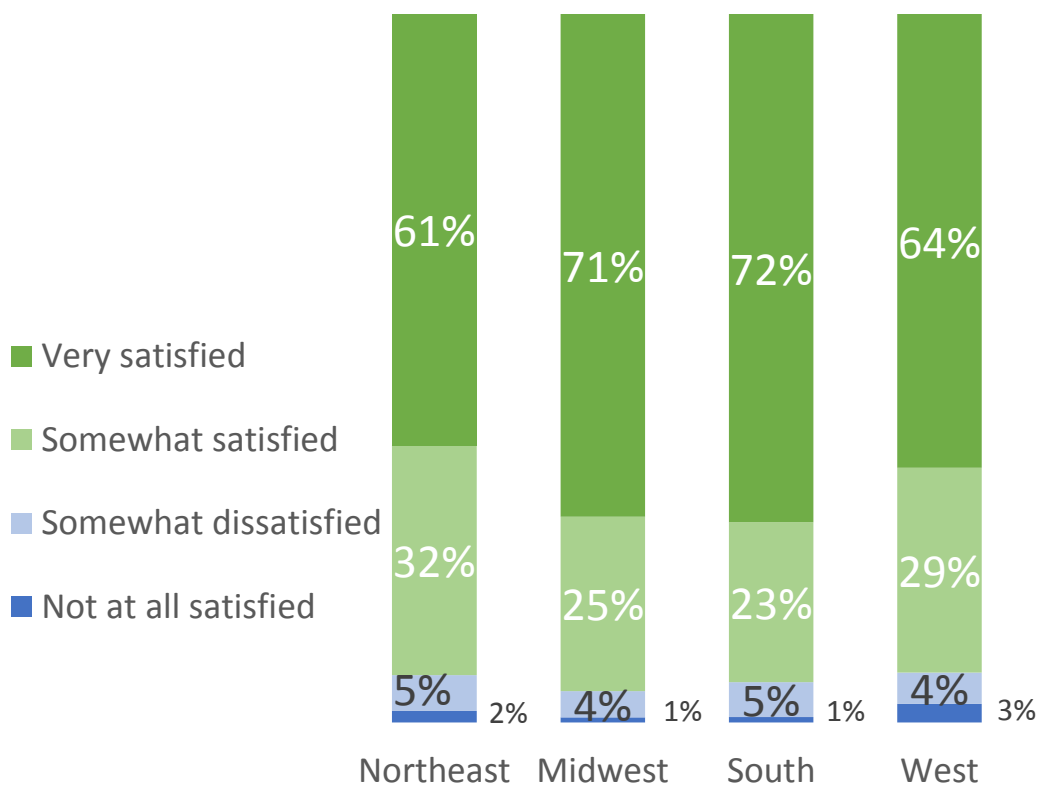
How satisfied would you say you feel in your current relationship?



# Increase your chance at happiness in the South and Midwest

Those in the South and Midwest are more likely to be “very” rather than “somewhat” satisfied

How satisfied would you say you feel in your current relationship?



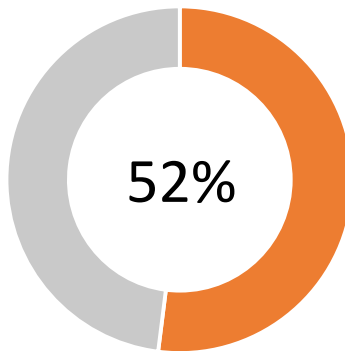


# Dating

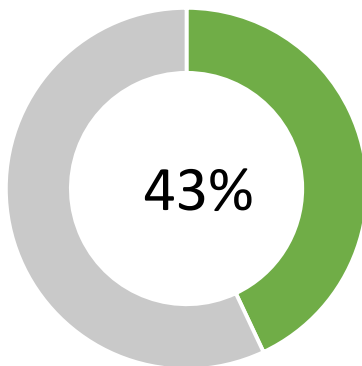
# More single women than men are OK staying that way

Half of single people aren't dating; more women than men are not dating

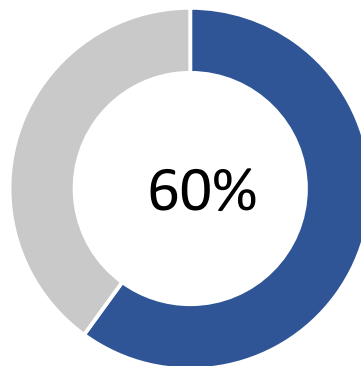
Proportion of single people who are not actively dating



Men



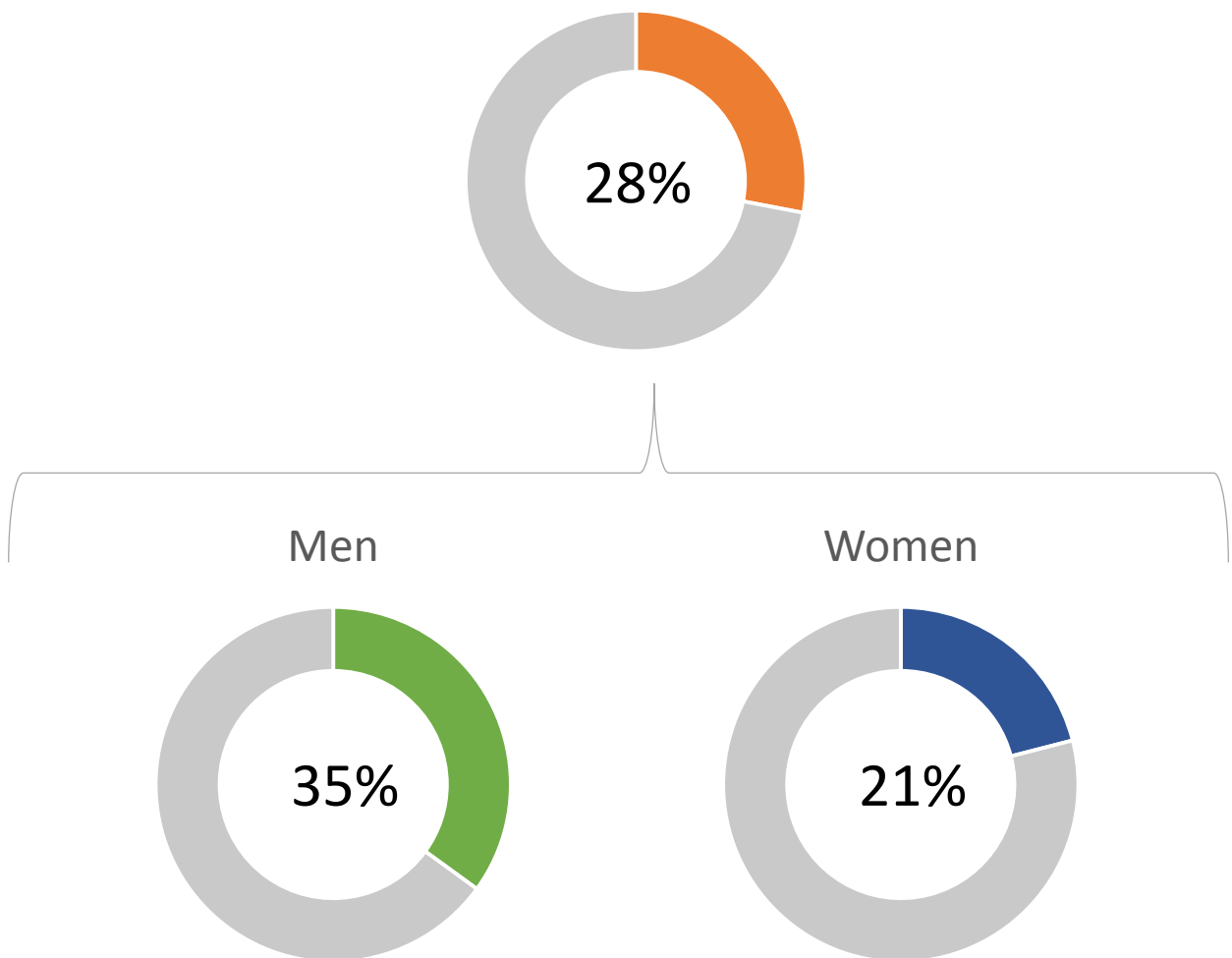
Women



# More single men than women are looking for love online

3 in 10 single Americans have tried dating online; most have been men

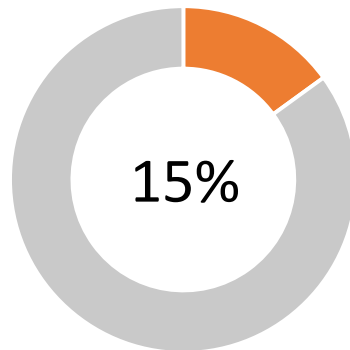
Proportion of single people who have ever used an online dating site



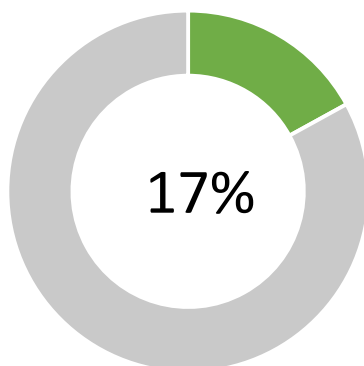
# Most Americans don't see potential in online dating

Less than 1 in 5 of all Americans believe online dating is a great way to meet someone

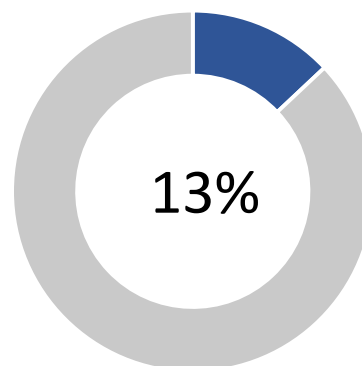
Say online dating is an excellent way to meet a romantic partner



Men



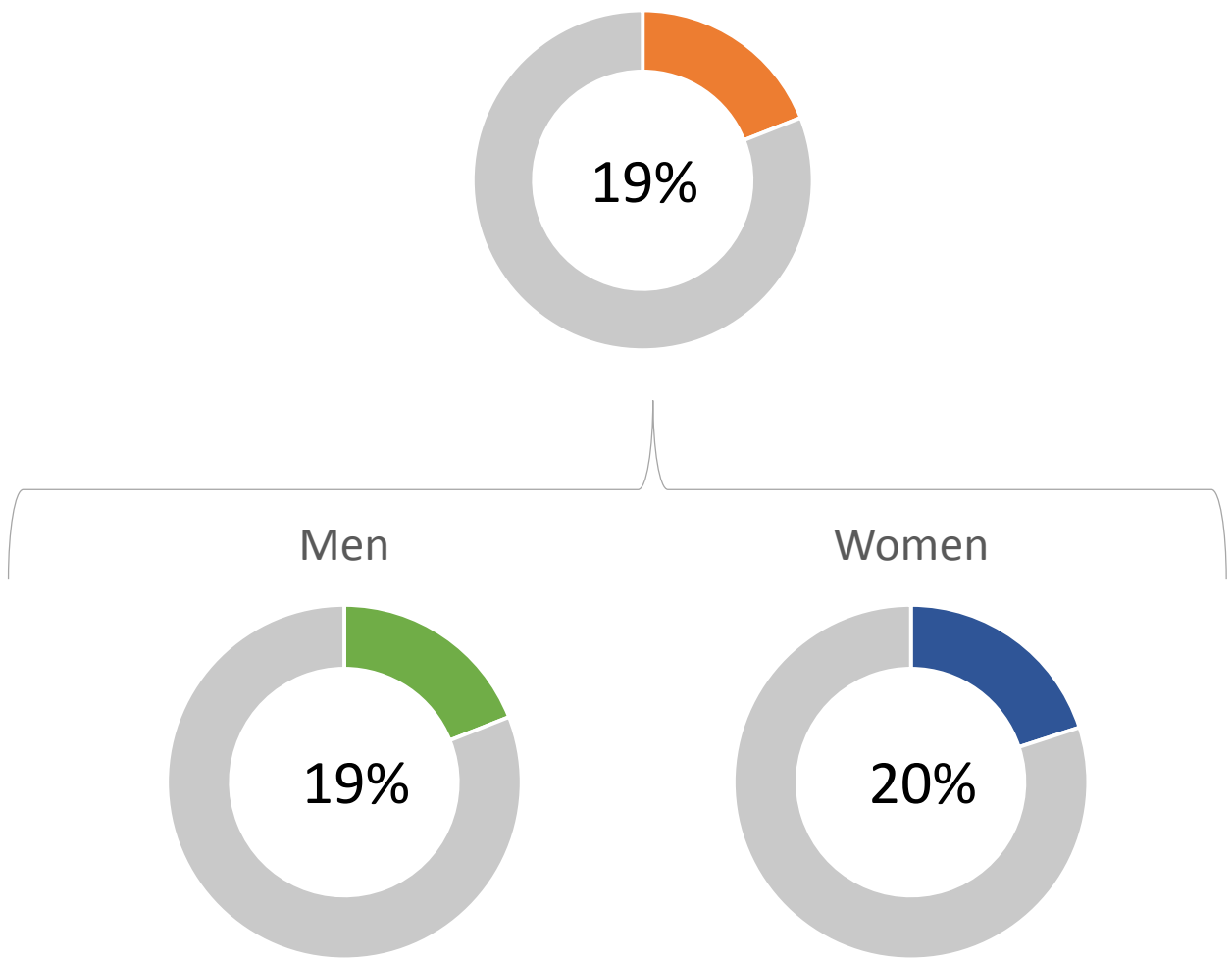
Women



# The online dating experience isn't impressing most people

Only one in five have had a lot of success with online dating

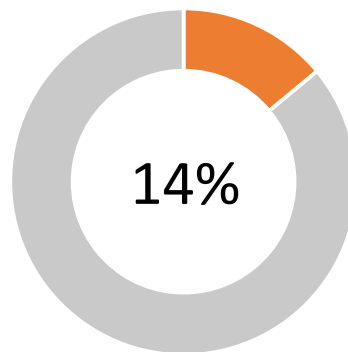
Proportion of online daters who've had a lot of success with it



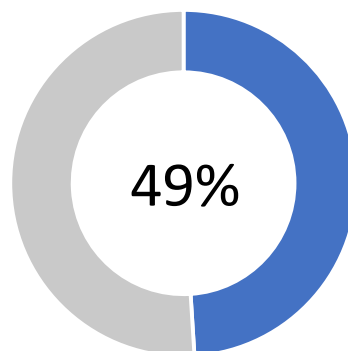
# But online dating is working for some

Half of those in relationships who have ever dated online have found their current partner that way

Proportion of all people currently in a relationship who met their current partner online



Proportion of online daters currently in a relationship who met their current partner online

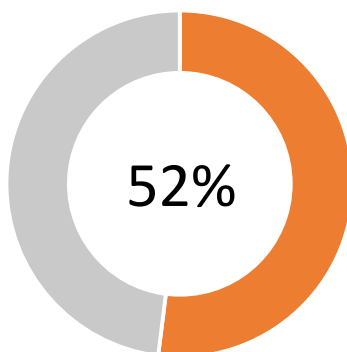




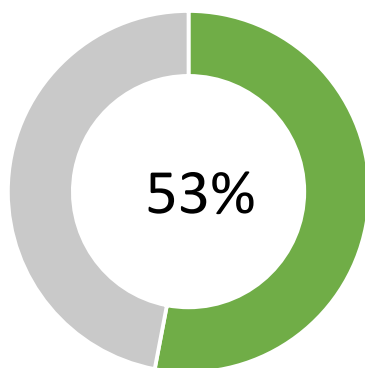
# Still, many prefer a face-to-face romantic spark

Half of all American men and women think a face-to-face meeting is the best way to start a relationship

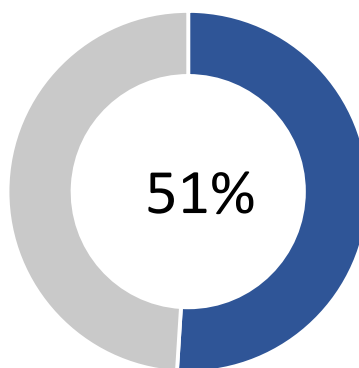
Believe the best way to meet a potential partner is face-to-face



Men



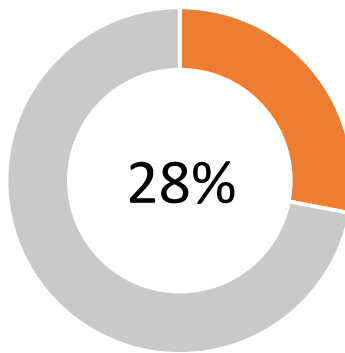
Women



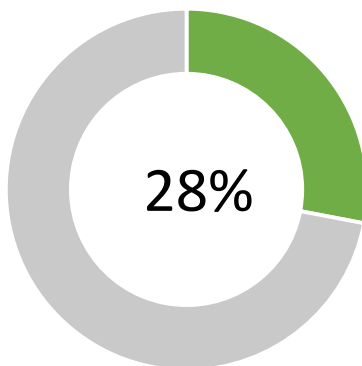
# Americans feel they need professional help finding love

About 30% of men and women are open to the idea of getting the help of a relationship expert

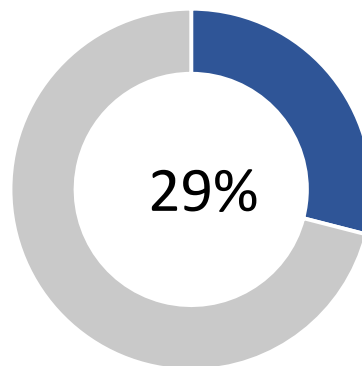
Say that, as a single person, they'd be willing to have a professional relationship expert match them with a romantic partner



Men



Women



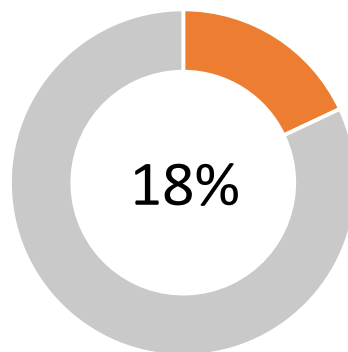


# Fidelity

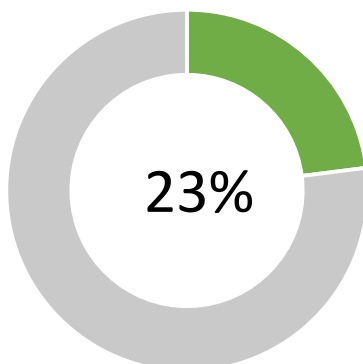
# More men than women stray

About 1 in 4 men have ever cheated in a relationship

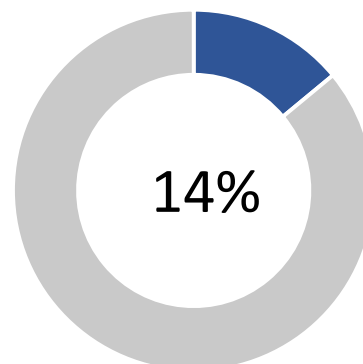
Have ever had sex with someone outside of their relationship without the approval of their partner



Men



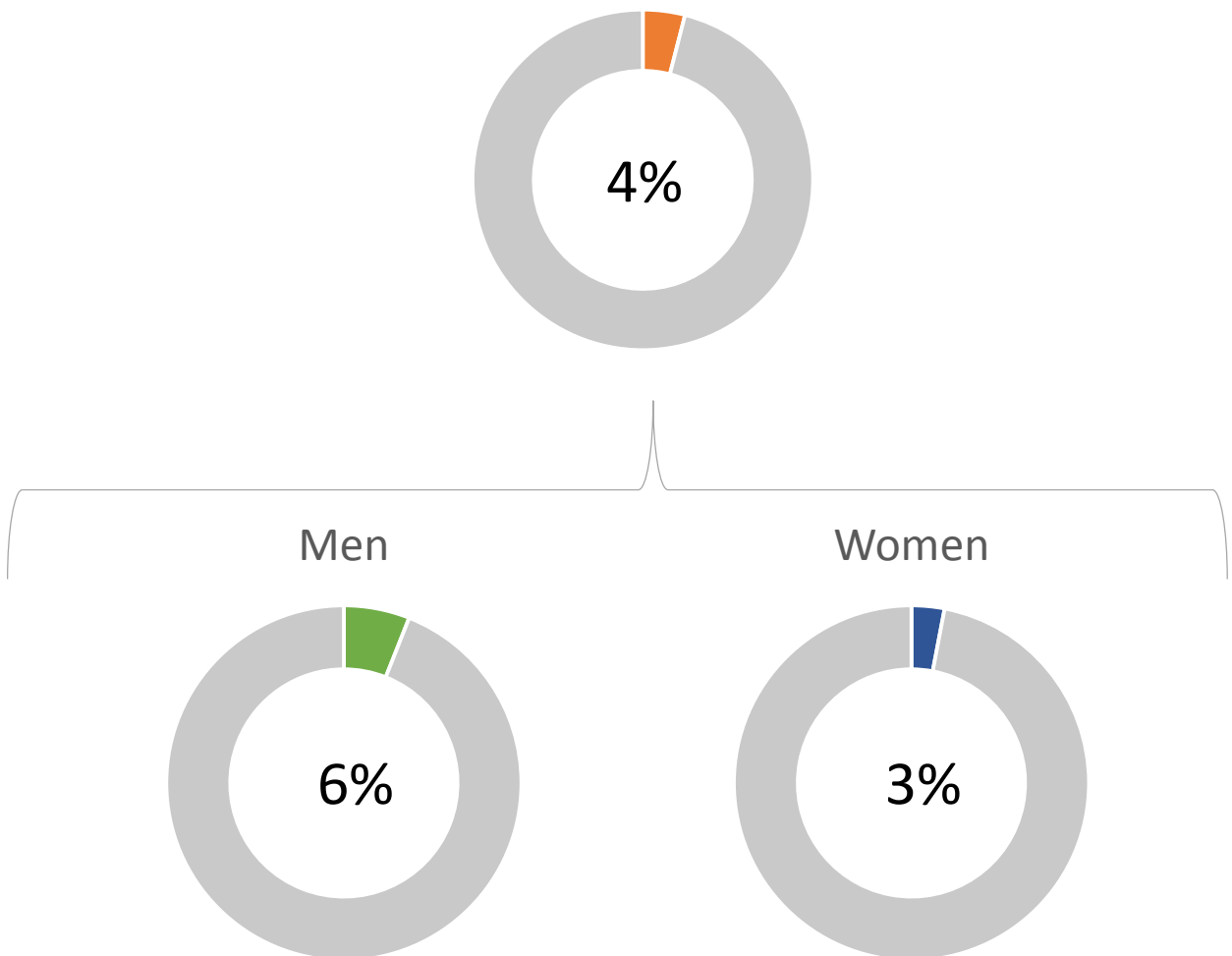
Women



# Few Americans have open relationships

Only 4% have ever agreed to have an open relationship with their partner

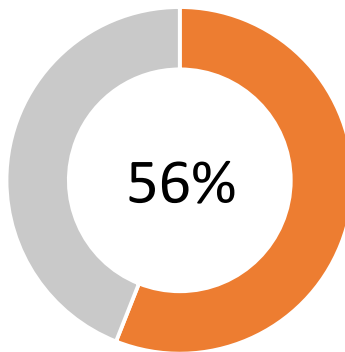
Entered an agreement with their partner that allowed them to have sex with other people



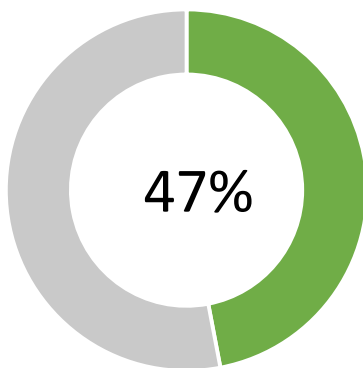
# More women are morally opposed to “being open”

A little over half of all Americans are morally opposed to open relationships; the rest feel neutral about or comfortable with it

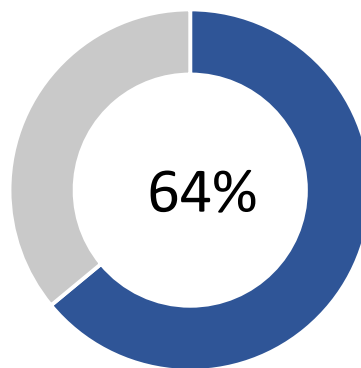
## Morally opposed to the idea of open relationships



Men



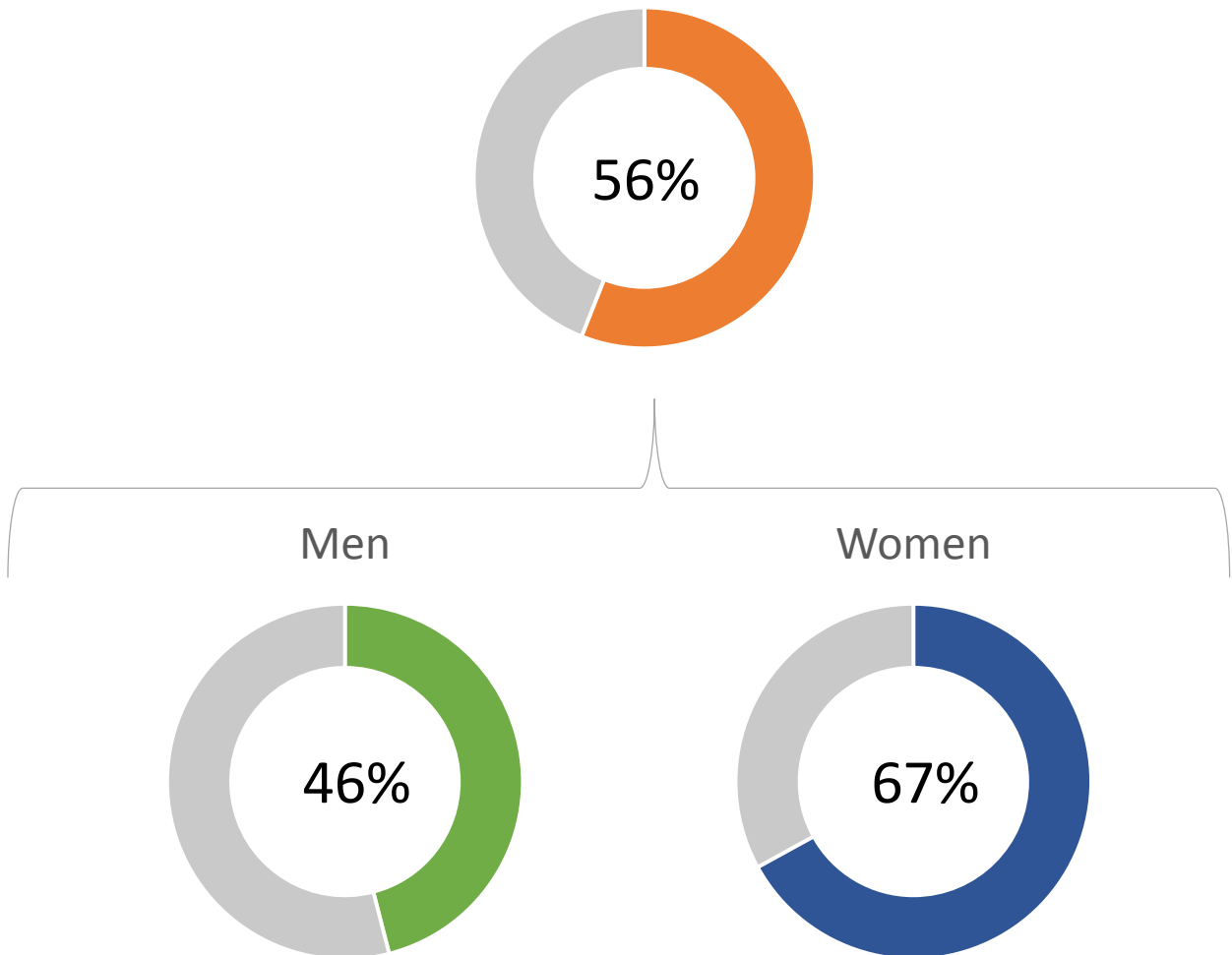
Women



# Fewer men reject a partner's request to "be open"

A little over half of all Americans would leave a partner who wanted to be "open"; the rest would not see such a request as an automatic deal-breaker

Say that if their romantic partner wanted an open relationship, they would leave them

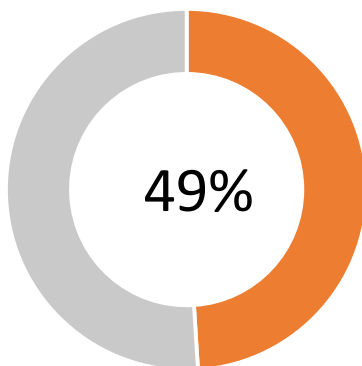


# Southerners, Midwesterners aren't as morally "open"

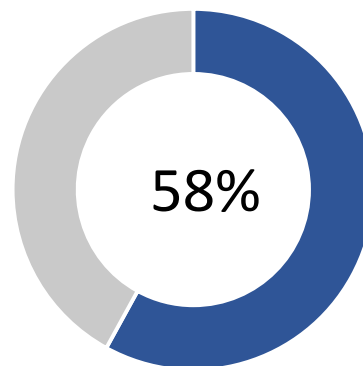
More Americans living in the Northeast and West are morally neutral or OK with open relationships

Are morally opposed to the idea of open relationships

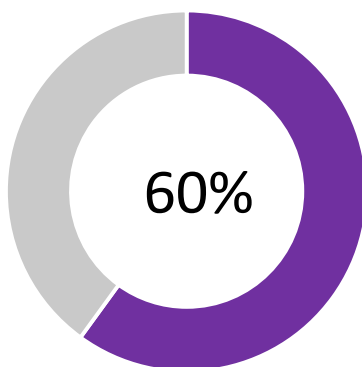
Northeast



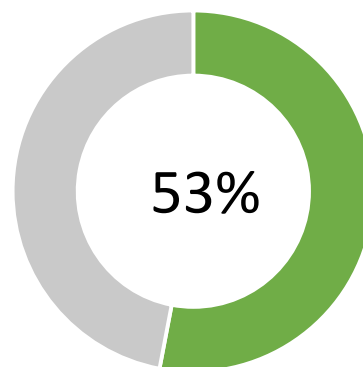
Midwest



South



West



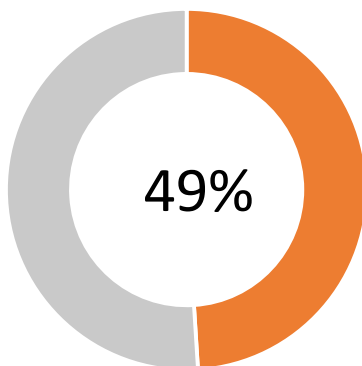


# Fewer Northeasterners would leave if asked for “openness”

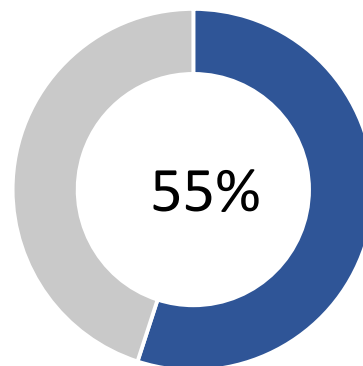
Fewer Southerners are tolerant of a request for an open relationship by their partner

Say that if their romantic partner wanted an open relationship, they would leave them

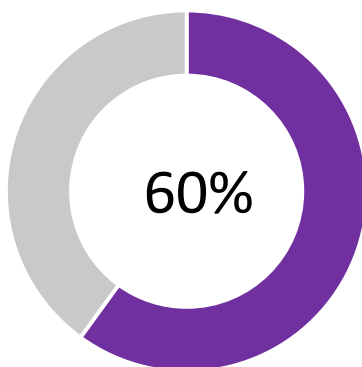
Northeast



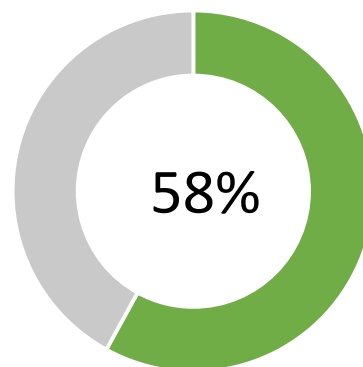
Midwest



South



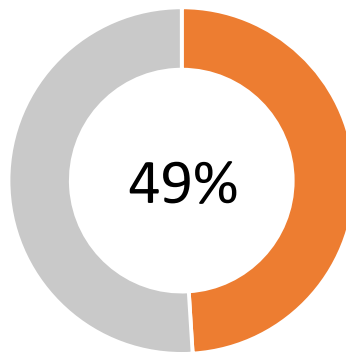
West



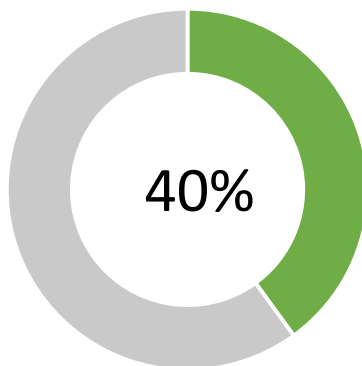
# Fewer men reject the idea of dating a married person

Half of all Americans – and more women than men – say that, if single, they'd stay away from dating someone who is married

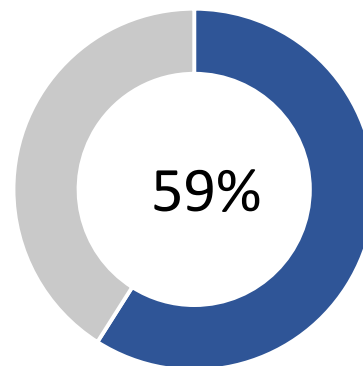
Would never, as a single person, date someone who is married



Men



Women



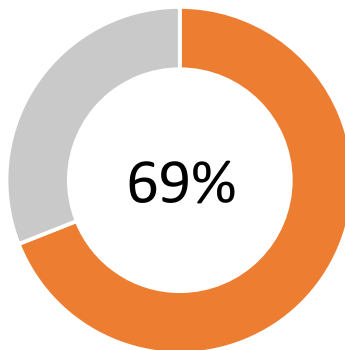


# Marriage

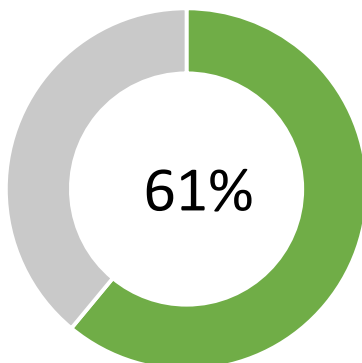
# Relationship longevity is something Americans believe in

Most people, and especially women, believe relationships should last

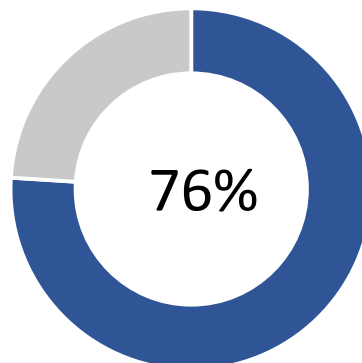
Believe relationships were meant to last



Men



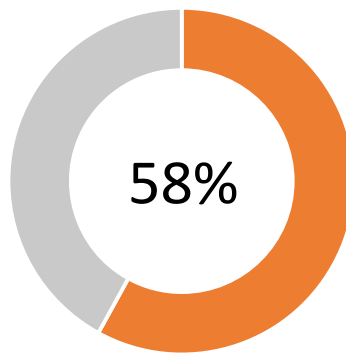
Women



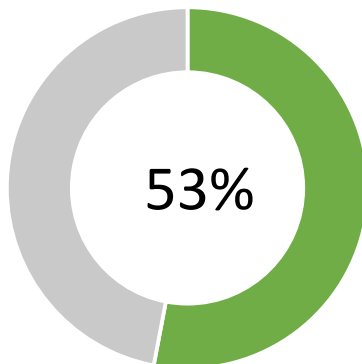
# Most Americans believe in the institution of marriage

More women than men say marriage isn't an outdated institution

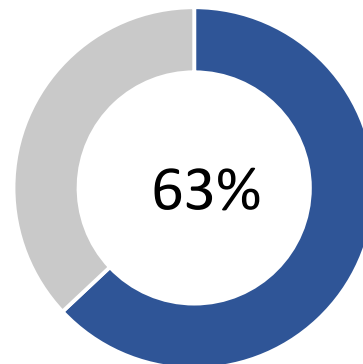
Don't think marriage is an outdated institution



Men



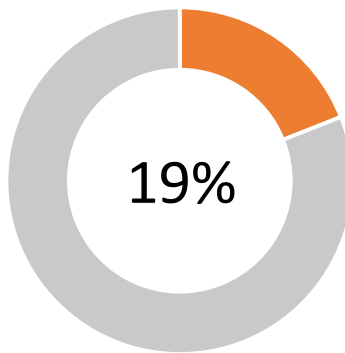
Women



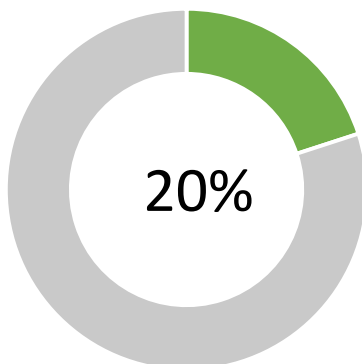
# However, less than a quarter see marriage as a life goal

Only 1 in 5 Americans say marriage is something everyone should aspire to do

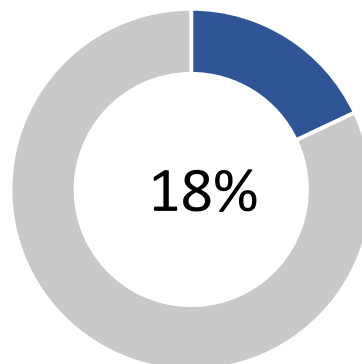
Think marriage should be a goal everyone has in life



Men



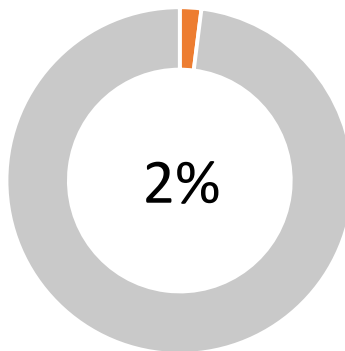
Women



# Getting a prenup is hardly a popular practice

Only 2% of Americans have ever had one

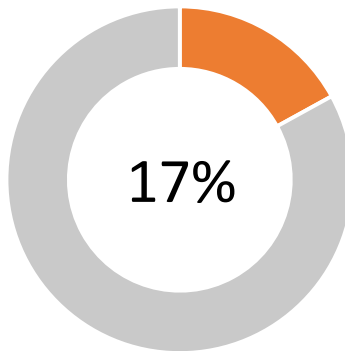
Proportion of married Americans who have ever gotten a prenup



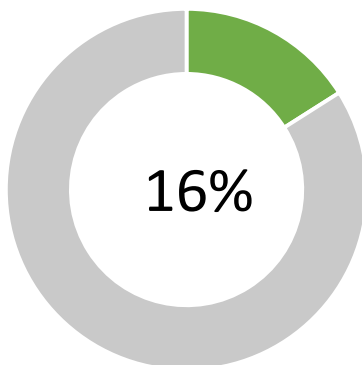
# There is an interest in prenups as a source of protection

About 1/5 Americans say prenups are necessary

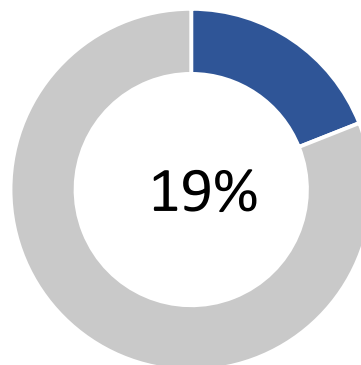
Think prenups are necessary to protect yourself in a marriage



Men



Women

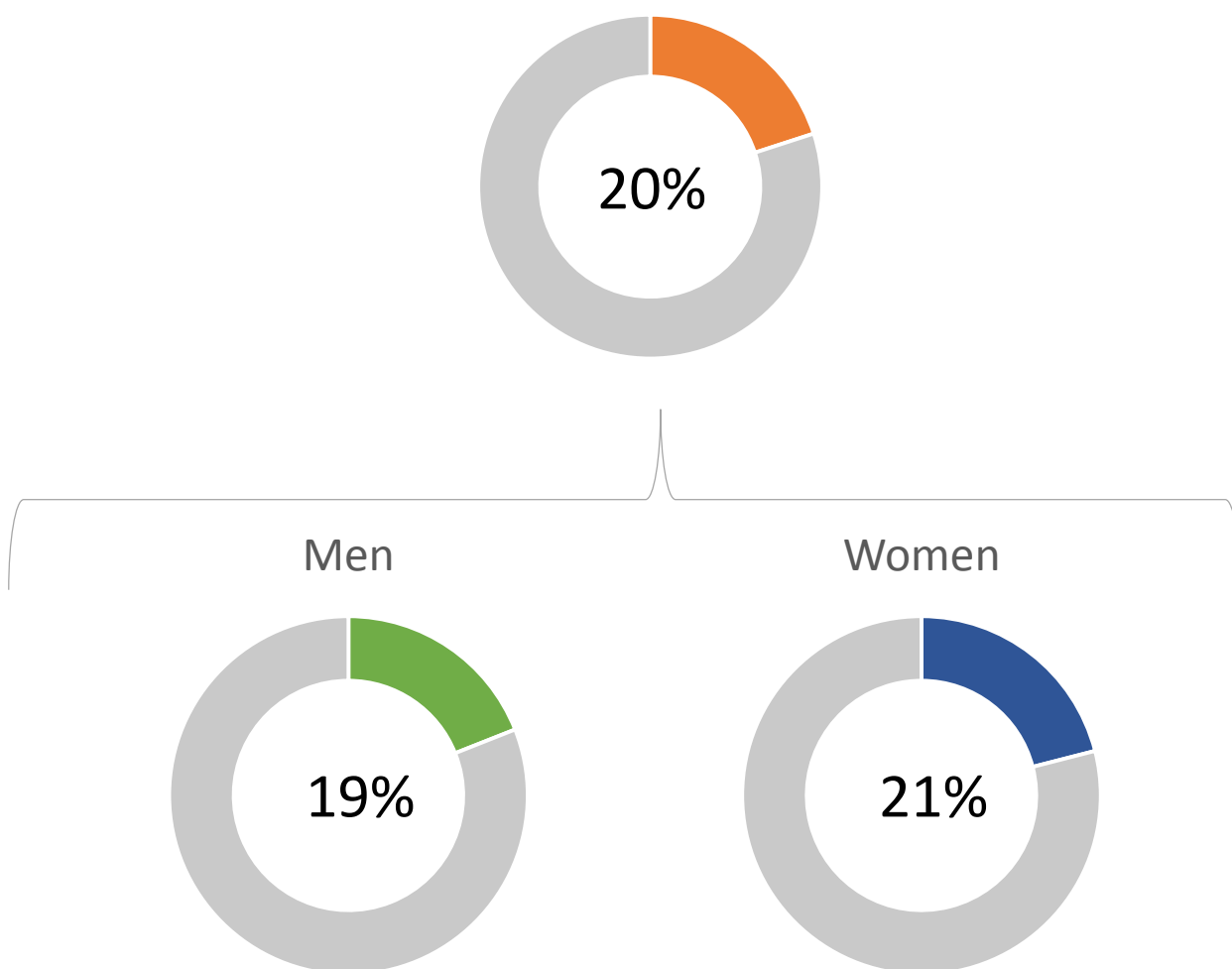




# And prenups aren't a romance-killer for a lot of people

Most say they'd remain romantically secure or feel unaffected if they were asked for a prenup

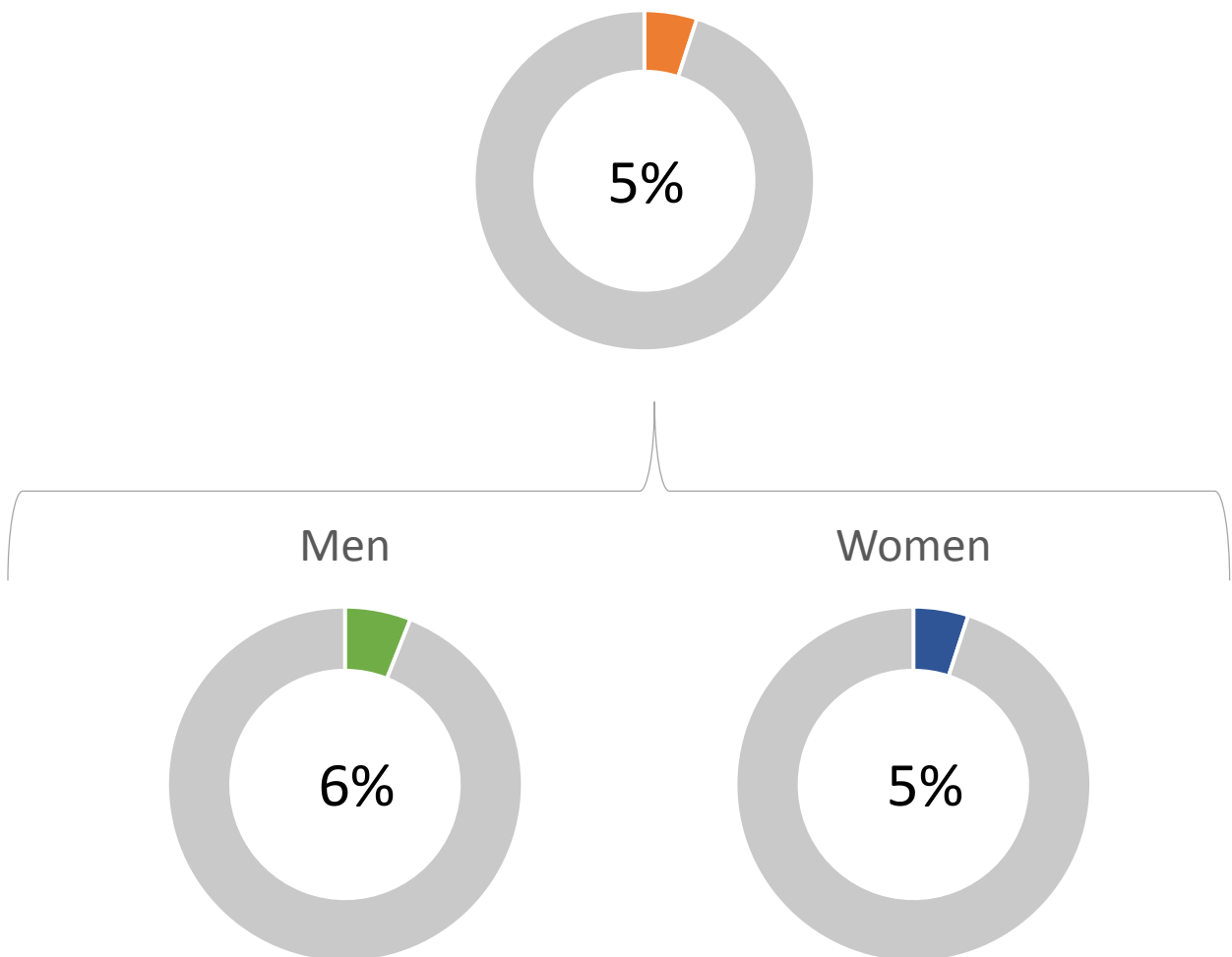
Say they would doubt their partner's feelings for them if their partner asked for a prenup



# Marriage is more frequent for some Americans

1 in 20 get married three or more times

Proportion of married or divorced Americans who have been married more than twice



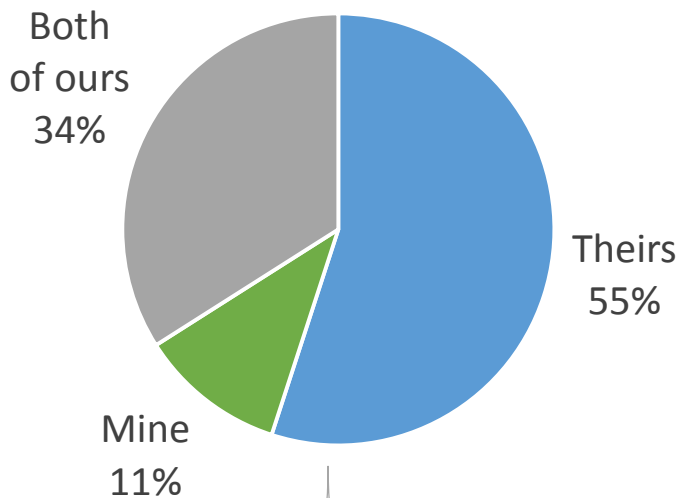


# Divorce

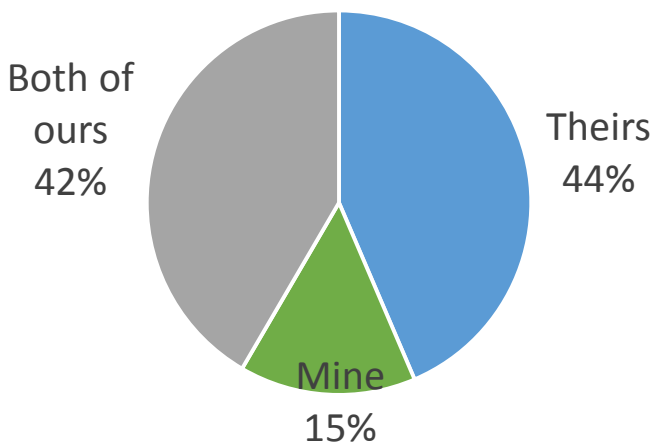
# Most Americans blame their exes for the failure of their marriage

More women than men are passing the blame, and more men are willing to share it

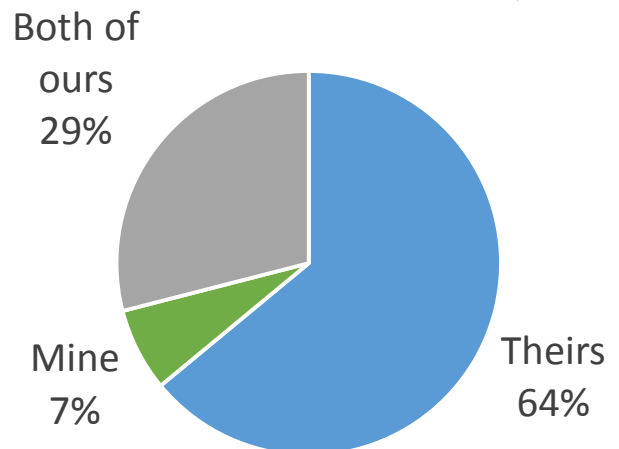
## Whose fault was your divorce?



### Men



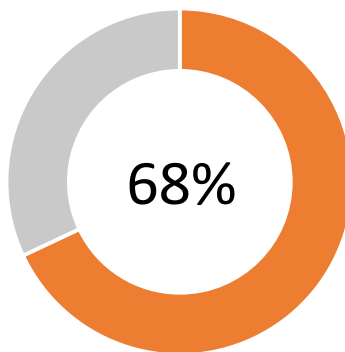
### Women



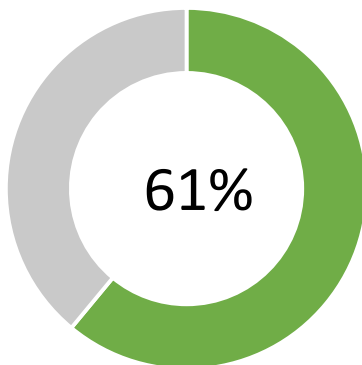
# Most who divorce don't look back

For 3 out of 4 women, and also for most men, divorce does not come with regret

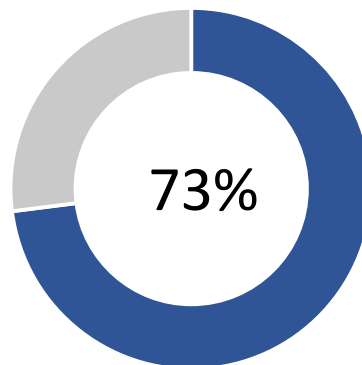
## Don't regret being divorced



Men



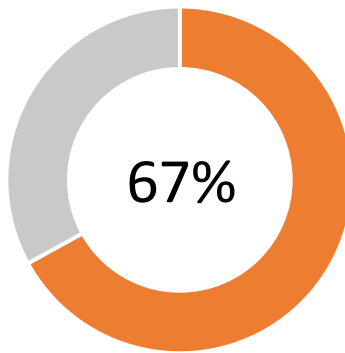
Women



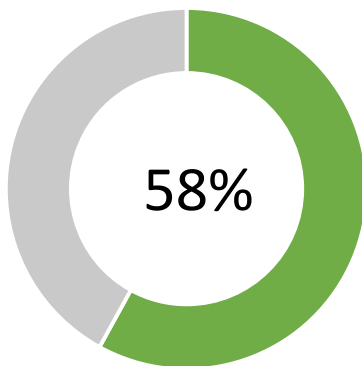
# This could be because, for most, happiness trumps being attached

Most say they'd rather be alone if being with someone brings less happiness

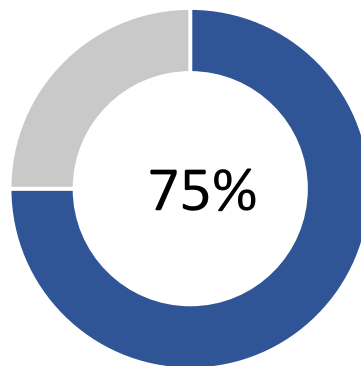
Would rather be alone, successful, and happy than in a relationship where they're not happy



Men



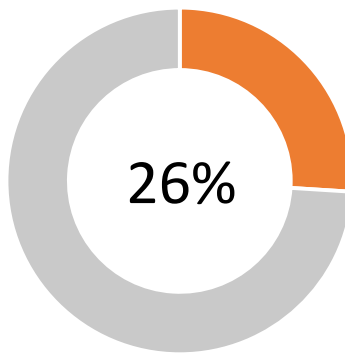
Women



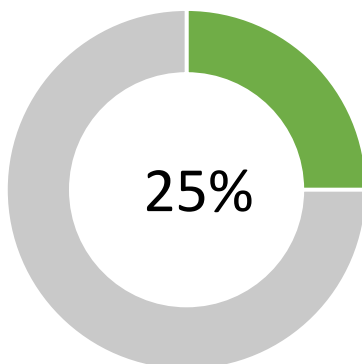
# But losing that loving feeling is not enough of a reason to split

Only 1 in 4 think that no longer wanting romance with your spouse is a reason to get a divorce

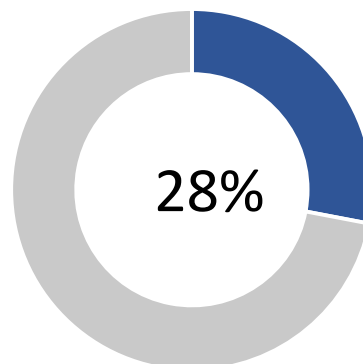
Believe that married couples who no longer want to be in a romantic relationship should definitely get a formal divorce



Men



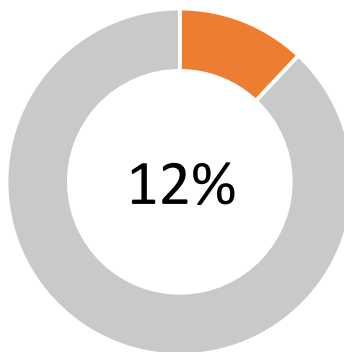
Women



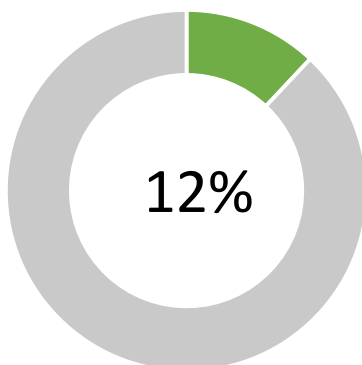
# Moral beliefs around divorce may not be enough to prevent it

Only 1 in 10 believe divorce is a sin.

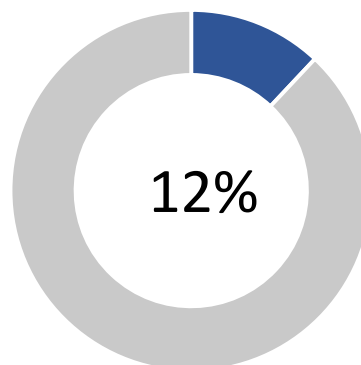
Divorce is a sin



Men



Women





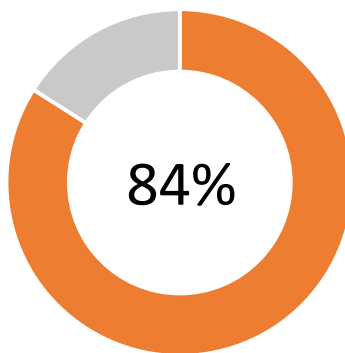


# The Cost of Relationships

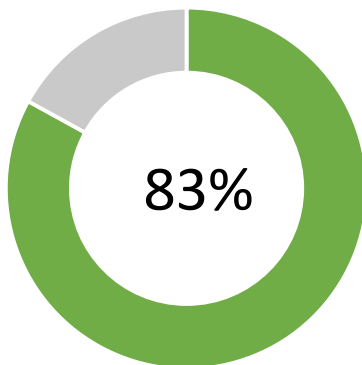
# Most Americans believe time makes a relationship work

A large majority say that what you get out of a relationship depends on the time you put into it

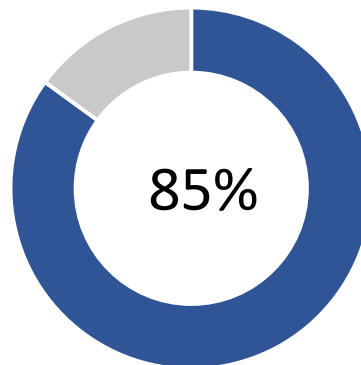
Believe that what you get out of a relationship is related to how much time you put into it



Men



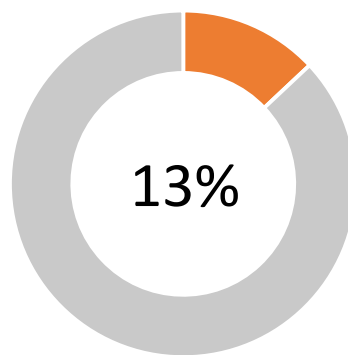
Women



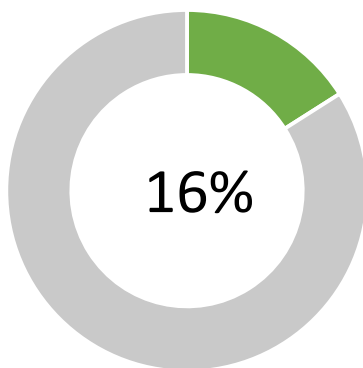
# Money isn't as important, but it's more important for men

More men than women say that a good relationship has to do with what you spend on it

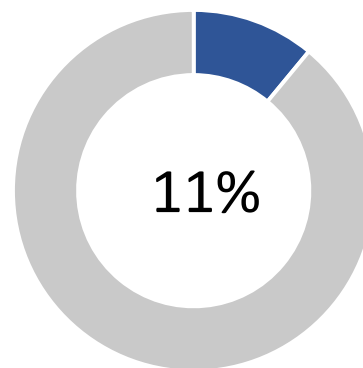
Believe that what you get out of a relationship is related to how much money you put into it



Men



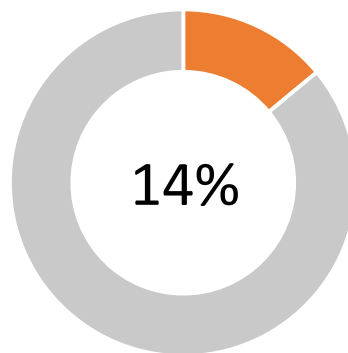
Women



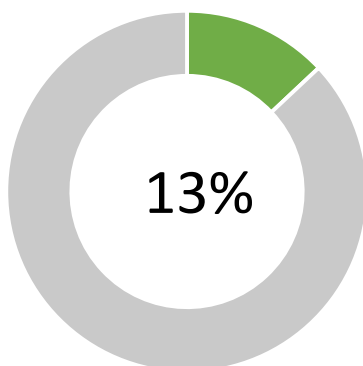
# For most, saving money isn't a reason to stick around

Only 14% say they've ever stayed with someone for financial reasons

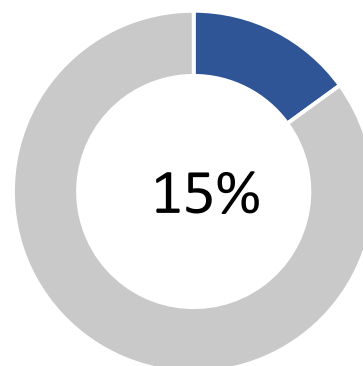
Stayed in a relationship longer than they wanted to because it was affordable



Men



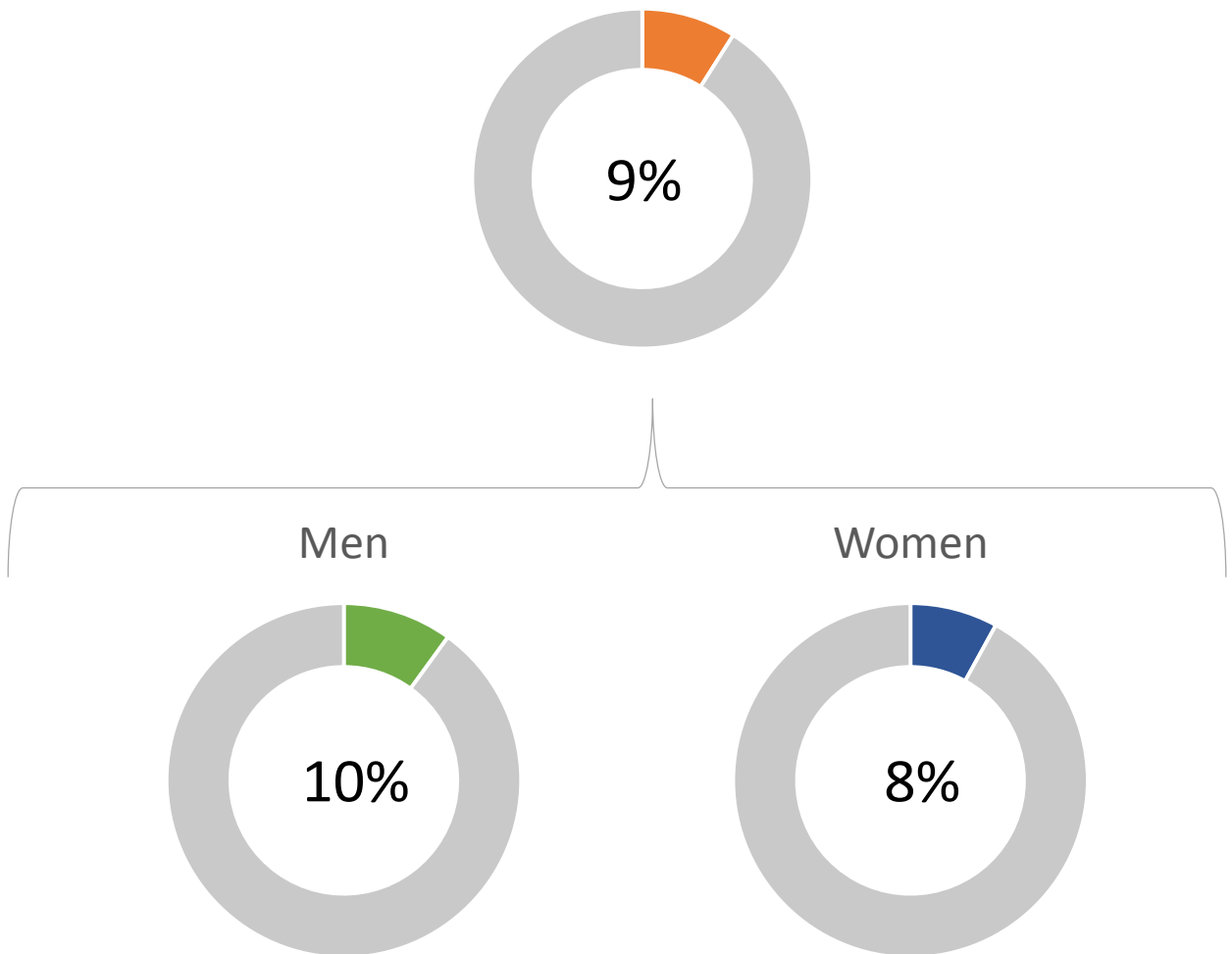
Women



# Most don't care about sunk costs either

Less than 10% stuck around in a relationship because they'd already spent a lot on it

Stayed in a relationship longer than they wanted to because they put a lot of money into it





# Same-sex Marriage

# Attitudes regarding same-sex marriage may be changing

One year after the SCOTUS ruling, more Americans may be accepting same-sex marriage in a legal sense

Believe same-sex marriage should be legal



# Men's attitudes about same-sex marriage have shifted more

While the proportion of female supporters has stayed the same, more men this year support it than did before the SCOTUS ruling

## Men believing same-sex marriage should be legal



## Women believing same-sex marriage should be legal

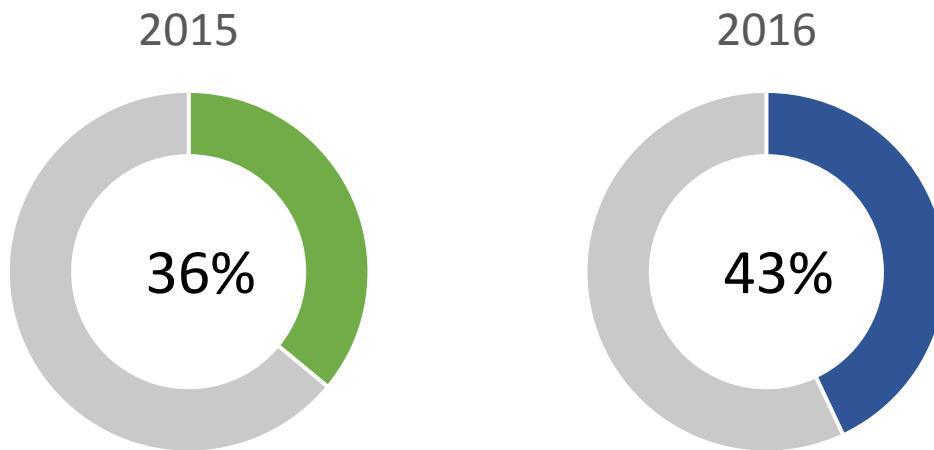




# Attitudes among older Americans have also seen an shift

More Americans over 55 support same-sex marriage a year after the SCOTUS ruling than did before

Americans 55+ believing same-sex marriage should be legal



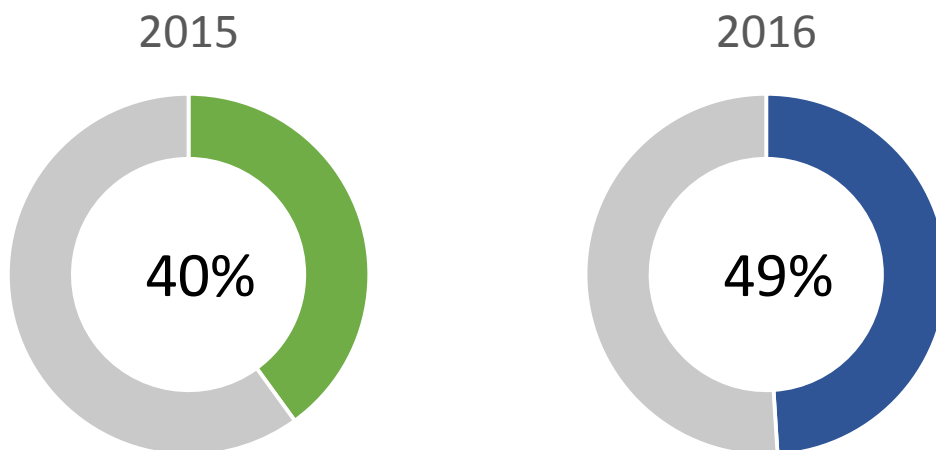
# Regionally, attitudinal shifts are greatest in the Northeast

Northeasterners and Midwesterners have become more comfortable with the legalization of same-sex marriage

## Northeasterners that believe same-sex marriage should be legal



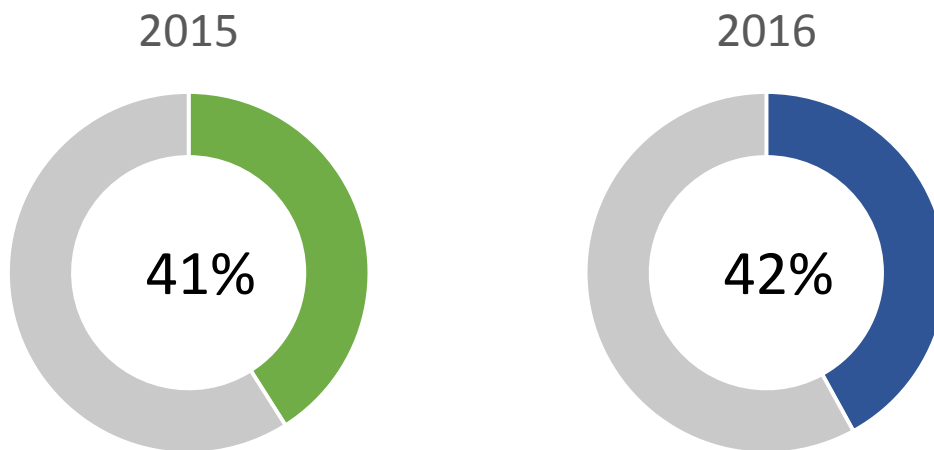
## Midwesterners that believe same-sex marriage should be legal



# Attitudes in the South and West haven't really shifted

There's no statistically significant difference among Southerners and Westerners from 2015 to 2016

## Southerners that believe same-sex marriage should be legal



## Westerners that believe same-sex marriage should be legal



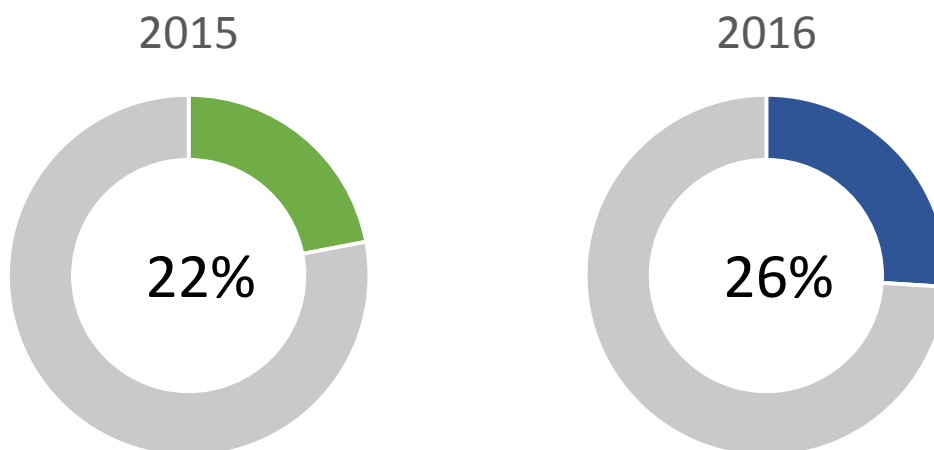
# More Democrats have changed their position on the issue

Republicans are still largely unsupportive of same-sex marriage, but support among Democrats has increased

## Democrats believing same-sex marriage should be legal



## Republicans believing same-sex marriage should be legal





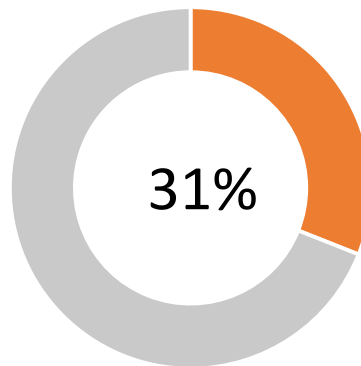
# Singles 50 and up

# Many older singles have bypassed marriage

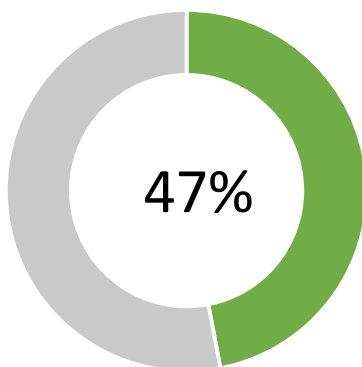
1 in 3 singles 50 and up have never been married

## Relationship Statuses of Singles 50 and up

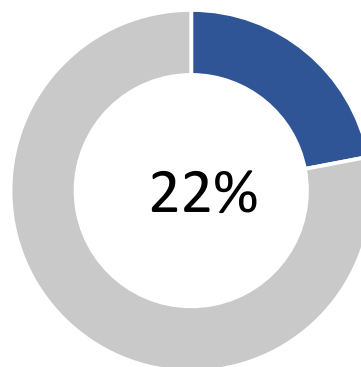
Never married



Divorced



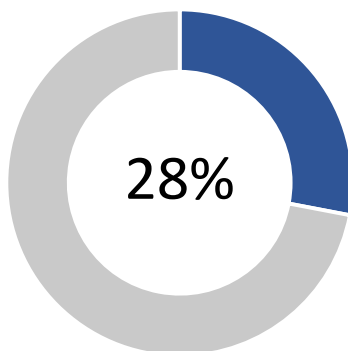
Widowed



# Most don't seem interested in romance

Only a little over a quarter are currently looking for a partner

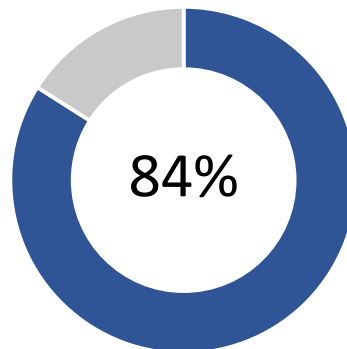
Singles 50 and up who are currently dating/looking for a romantic partner



# Most older singles prefer happiness over companionship

A large majority say they'd rather be happy and alone than with someone

Singles 50 and up who say they'd rather be alone, successful, and happy than in a relationship where they aren't happy

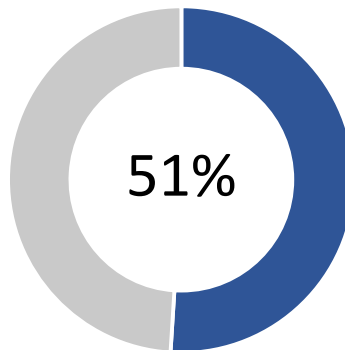




# If they were to date, half would want to meet someone in person

Half agree with the notion that meeting someone face-to-face is the best way to start a romance

Singles 50 and up who believe meeting someone face-to-face is the best way to first meet a romantic partner

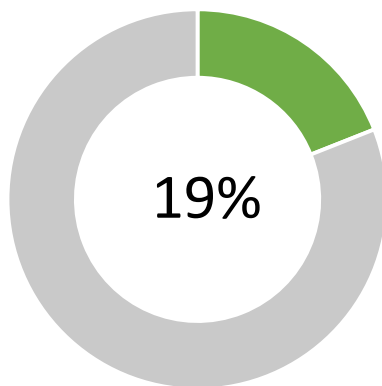


# Online dating hasn't caught on with most singles 50 and up

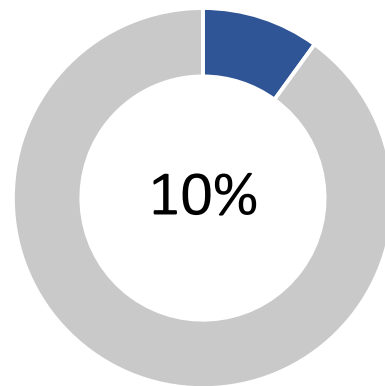
Only about 1 in 5 have ever tried it, and 1 in 10 think it's a good idea

## Singles 50 and up who...

Have used an online dating site at some point



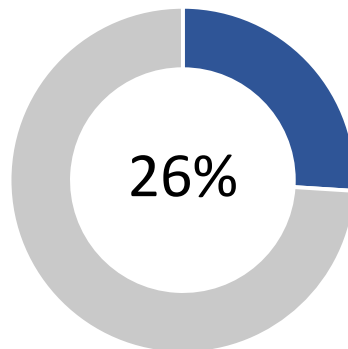
Say online dating is an excellent way to meet a romantic partner



# Older singles may try professional matchmaking

About 1 in 4 say they'd give a professional relationship expert a shot

Singles 50 and up who are willing to have a professional relationship expert match them with a partner

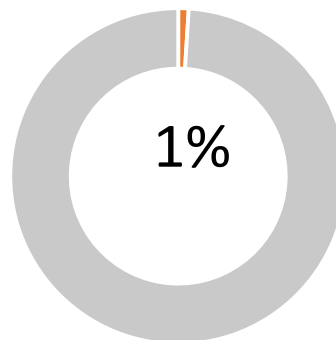


# Older singles are likely to be monogamous

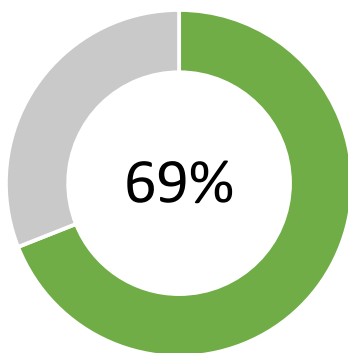
Very few have been in an open relationship, and about 3 in 10 seem neutral or open to the idea

## Singles 50 and up who...

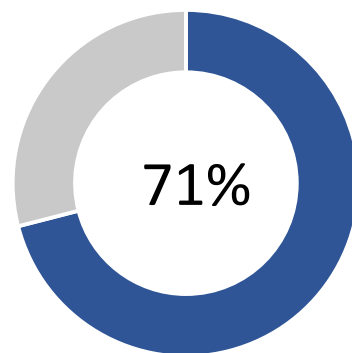
Have been in an open relationship



Are morally opposed to open relationships



Would leave a partner who wanted to be "open"



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# Thank you!

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