Running head: DATING, DATING ANXIETY, ATTITUDE MEASURES

Attitudes Towards Dating on the College Campus
Keshia Groves
University of Southern California

Abstract

Dating during adolescence is correlated with the development of interpersonal skills including sharing, intimacy, communication, and negotiation as well as the establishment of future healthy relationships. In the academic setting, minority students seeking mates within their race may be unable to date due to a scarcity of potential partners. The current research investigated ethnic differences in the dating scene at the University of Southern California. One hundred-twenty undergraduates from USC completed a survey evaluating attitudes towards dating on campus. The survey featured the *Dating Anxiety Scale - Adolescents* (DAS-A) and the *Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale*. Results demonstrate that infrequent dating is related to high dating anxiety in Asians ($r = -.530$, $p = .05$). Amongst Blacks, however, perceiving few dating mates on campus is related to higher dating anxiety, specifically fear of negative evaluation ($r = .456$, $\rho=.05$) and dating anxiety in dating situations *($r = .467$, $\rho=.05$)*. In addition, results reveal a positive correlation between high dating anxiety and low self-esteem for all racial groups except Asians; as dating anxiety increases one's self-esteem decreases, with Whites (*$r=-.820$, $p = .01$*) and Latinos (*$r=-.814$, $p = .01$*) exhibiting the strongest correlation between increased fear of negative evaluation and low self-esteem. The results reveal ethnic differences in the experience of dating anxiety and attitudes towards dating on the college campus. Future research should examine ethnic differences in dating anxiety because issues concerning dating may impede one's adjustment and satisfaction on the college campus. This research can offer campus providers insight into a social issue that may hinder the adjustment of ethnic minorities onto the college campus.

Attitudes Towards Dating on the College Campus

The current study evaluates undergraduate Black female's attitudes towards dating. Although existing research on dating is limited, this literature review evaluates current research topics related to dating anxiety and issues related to dating among the college population.

The concept of dating anxiety evolved from the concept of social anxiety. The American Psychiatric Association defines social anxiety as the fear of negative evaluations by others in social situations (American Psychiatric Association, 2000). One major characteristic of social anxiety is the fear of negative evaluation; fearing that others will judge you in a negative light (Leitenberg, 1990). Social anxiety causes one to perceive that others will think that they are inadequate and will reject him/her and this leads to feelings of apprehension, self-consciousness, and emotional distress (Leitenberg, 1990). To some degree, everyone experiences some form of social anxiety, for the fear of being judged in a negative light is common place- from public speaking or tripping as one walks down a crowded street. Social anxiety is correlated to a number of negative behaviors, which includes but is not limited to alcoholism (Beidel *et al* 1995).

During the 1970's, researchers began to investigate the social anxiety one experiences in the dating context, however researcher's interest on this topic declined in the 1990's (Nangle & Hansen, 1998). There is controversy on whether dating anxiety is a form of social anxiety or if it should be accepted as its own entity (Glickman & La Greca 2004). However, there are pyschologists who support the notion that dating anxiety is a concept related to and yet distinct from social anxiety (Chorney & Morris, 2008; Calvert, Moore, & Jensen, 1987; Glickman & La Greca, 2004; Heimberg, 1977, Hope &

Heimberg 1990). Researchers who investigate dating anxiety have come to a vague consensus of the definition of dating anxiety. Hope & Heimberg (1990) define dating anxiety as apprehension and discomfort in interactions with a potential romantic partner (Hope & Heimberg, 1990). Glickman & La Greca (2004) define dating anxiety as the distress that occurs when one engages in interactions with potential dating partners or the opposite sex (Glickman & La Greca, 2004).

The ambiguity of what constitutes a date hinders the specificity of the definition of dating anxiety. Pirog-Good & Stets (1989) define dating at "a dyadic interaction that focuses on participation in mutually rewarding activities that may increase the likelihood of future interaction, emotional commitment, and/or sexual intimacy" (Pirog-Good & Stets, 1989). Pirog-Good & Stets' formal definition of a date is an attempt to operational define a social phenomenon that may be defined differently by various cultures and generations and whose general concept continues to evolve. Chorney & Morris (2008) note that the concept of a date as evolved with the emergence of women's rights. In the past, it was expected that only men could initiate dates with women, positioning women in a passive and subservient dating role. But as time progresses it is increasingly more acceptable for women play an active role in the dating arena by initiating dates with men. Also, the Pirog-Good & Stets (1989) definition of a date did not specify the role proximity plays in dating situations. Technological advances have increased one's ability to meet and socialize with others while simultaneously eliminating the need to be within close proximity to one's dating partner. Technologies' role in dating anxiety is not limited to the younger generations, for researchers have discovered that older adults utilized online social networks to meet potential dating partners (Alterovitz &

Mendelsohn, 2009). With the change in gender roles and the advancement of technology, a formal definition of dating becomes less distinct and continues to evolve from one generation to the next.

Avoiding the onset of dating anxiety or learning to cope with dating anxiety is important because dating anxiety can hinder the development of interpersonal skills essential to the growth of healthy relationships and a positive self-concept. Benefits of forming other-sex relationships include developing skills in intimacy, friendship, sexual intercourse exploration, gaining autonomy from family, and participating in courtship and mate selection (Furman and Wehner, 1997; Hansen *et al*., 1992). Apprehension about dating carries negative developmental consequences such as increasing one's risk of experiencing sexual dysfunction and apprehension of future sexual intercourse (Barlow, 1986; Heimbergy & Barlow, 1988). Dating may allow for the formation of meaningful intimate relationships with the opposite sex, which in turns facilitates the growth of vital developmental skills. If one does not engage in dating, if dating anxiety inhibits one from dating, or if one perceives their dating selection to be limited, the consequences could include the impediment of developing social skills such as sharing, intimacy, and disclosure that enable the formation and success of future relationships.

Adolescence is a developmental stage that fosters the exploration and development of dating and sexual relationships. (Seidman & Rieder, 1994). Dating typically begins during mid-adolescence, between the ages of 14 and 15 (Connolly *et. al.*, 1999). One's first dating mate tends to be with a person within one's peer group (Davies & Windle, 2000). As an adolescent ages, his or her peer group tends to evolve from consisting of same sex members to mixed sexed members. Csikszentmihalyi and Larson

(1984) found that high school freshmen spend 44% of their time with same sex peer groups, whereas high school seniors spend 21% of their time with same-sex groups and 24% with other-sex groups (Csikszentmihalyi & Larson, 1984). Adolescents' shift towards spending more time with other-sex peers allows for experimentation and establishment of dating relationships. Current literature supports the notion that dating during adolescence plays a vital role in one's social and emotional development. Engaging in healthy romantic relationships during adolescence is correlated with positive self-concept (Connoly & Konarski, 1994). Dating helps adolescents develop interpersonal skills such as sharing, negotiation, disclosure, and intimacy (Feiring, 1996; Furman & Shaffer, 2003). Furthermore, Glickman & La Greca suggest that an adolescent's lack of experience with dating or their apprehension towards dating may lead to future distress in dating situations, dating avoidance, feelings of dating anxiety and developmental delays in intimate, romantic relationships. (Glickman & La Greca, 2004, pg 567). Areas in dating that cause adolescents the most stress include finding a date, initiating contact with prospective dates, initiation of sexual activity, avoiding or curtailing sex, and ending a date (Klaus, Herson, & Bellack, 1977, pg). Negative experiences with dating or the lack of dating during adolescence can negatively impact the formation and maintenance of romantic relationships in adulthood.

In a recent article by Chorney and Morris (2008), the authors note that although the area of dating anxiety is a significant issue amongst college students (Arkowitz, Hinton, Perl, & Himadi, 1978; Bryant & Trower, 1974; Davies & Windle, 2000; Dodge, Heimberg, Nyman, & O'Brien, 1987) research on dating anxiety is scarce. Arkowitz (1978) found that approximately 31% of college students report feeling "somewhat" to

"very" anxious about dating, revealing that dating evokes anxiety among a significant portion of college students. Calvert *et. al.* (1987) surveyed both women and men in college and found that students rated dating as being difficult and also that dating accounted for nearly half of all social issues that these students faced (Calvert, 1987 pg 341).

There are conflicting findings on the role dating anxiety plays among females. Studies suggest that social anxiety is more prevalent among women (Essau, Conradt, & Petermann, 2000). However, there seems to be no gender difference in dating anxiety. Studies have shown that dating complaints are popular among college age females (Arkowitz, Lichenstien, McGovern, & Hines 1975). Women report more difficulty finding potential dating partners and more difficulty ending a date than do men (Klaus et al., 1977). Men report more difficulty obtaining a date or initiating a conversation over the phone with potential dating partners (Klaus et al., 1977). In an evaluation of the current literature on dating and females, Chorney & Morris (2008) suggests that more research needs to be done to eliminate the discrepancies present in the current literature on female's experience of dating anxiety (Chorney & Morris, 2008, pg 232).

Research on dating anxiety among ethnic minorities, specifically among Blacks, is lacking. The Black female to male undergraduate ratio is not equal; one study found that in 2006 42% of Black female high school graduates were enrolled in college while only 37% of their male counterparts were enrolled in college, and that the disparity continues to increase each year (Alexander, 2004). Other studies have found that Black women are more likely to receive college degrees than their male counterparts at both predominately white and historically Black institutions (Yeakey &Bennet, 1990). Staples

(1981) found that among the Black female population in the United States, Black women who earn college degrees are least likely to marry (Staples, 1981). Staples (1981) also found that the higher level of education a Black female obtains, the more likely she will divorce in her lifetime (Staples 1981).

Washington & Newman (1991) found that Black woman would prefer to stay single than to enter into a union with a Black male who has not obtained the same level of education (Washington & Newman, 1991). In conjunction to this finding, it is predicted that the number of Black women earning degrees increased by 55% since the 1970's, while Black males earning degrees has increased by 22% since the 1970's (Jet Magazine, 2002). Despite findings that suggest Black females who obtain higher education are least likely to marry, a large majority of educated Black women still report hoping to marry in the future (Bronzaft, 1991).

The current study will evaluate attitudes towards dating on the college camps, with the aim of increasing knowledge of the ethnic differences in dating and dating anxiety. The current study will investigate group differences in dating anxiety and investigate if dating anxiety is correlated with self-esteem, self-reported dating frequency, and attachment style in romantic relationships. The following hypotheses were evaluated; H1: Infrequent dating will be correlated with dating anxiety for minority groups, H2: Dating anxiety will be correlated with insecure attachment across all racial groups, H3: Dating anxiety will be correlated with self-esteem across all racial groups, H4: There are ethnic and gender difference in dating and dating anxiety.

<div align="center">Methods</div>

Participants

Participants were recruited from the online social networking site *Facebook.com*, and from the University of Southern California (USC) cultural organization Asian Pacific American Student Assembly. Data was collected during the months of June and July in the year 2009. Participants consisted of one hundred twenty undergraduates from USC, with the racial composition as follows: 33% Black , 20% White, 19% Asian, 13% Latino. The gender break down consisted of 29% males and 71% female. Invitations to participate in this survey were sent to over 327 undergraduates, and of these, 111 people participated, resulting in a 33% response rate. All subjects were heterosexuals, ranging in age from 18-25 years ($M = 20.2$).

Design

This research is a correlational design survey, with approximately 150 questions.

Procedure

The research was constructed using the website www.qualtrics.com. Data was collected during the months of June and July in the year 2009. Qualtrics was not only used for the construction of the survey, but also for data collection. A link to the survey was hosted on the website www.alternativeresearch.org.

Undergraduate students were either sent an email invitation to take the survey or were invited to a group created on Facebook.com that described the research topic and invited them to take the survey. Subjects who were interested in taking the survey visited the Alternative Research website and clicked a link that directed them to a consent page informing them that the information collected in the survey was anonymous and that they could withdraw from the survey at anytime.

Subjects were then asked to answer a series of demographic questions including, but was not limited to their city of residence, annual gross income, and year in school. Subjects were also asked to answer questions that pertained to their dating history and dating preference, such as if they were currently in formal romantic relationship, the number of people they have dated while in college, and how abundantly they perceive their dating options to be on their college campus.

Subjects were then asked to complete a series of scales related to dating and ideals on relationships and romance. The survey was programmed to randomize the ordering of the presentation of scales to each subject, which eliminated the confound of presentation order and improved internal validity. The following scales were utilized in this survey:

The Attitudes About Romance and Mate Selection (AARMS) is a 37-item scale constructed by Cobb, Larson, and Watson in 2003. It measures Larson's constraining beliefs about marriage and mate selection on seven subscales: *The One and Only, The Perfect Partner, The Perfect Self, The Perfect Relationship, Try Harder, Love is Enough, Cohabitation, Opposites Complement, and Choosing Should Be Easy*. The first five questions on the AARMS assess demographic characteristics and thus were omitted in this survey. Therefore, only the last 32 items of the AARMS were included in this survey.

The Dating Anxiety Scale for Adolescents (DAS-A) is a 21-item measure developed by Glickman & La Greca in 2004. It is used to gage one's anxiety towards dating, including fear of negative evaluation in dating situations, social distress when interacting with real or potential dating partners, and social distress when in a group of mixed-sex peers. The DAS-A has a strong correlation (r=.75)

with the Social Anxiety Scale for Adolescents (SAS-A), developed by La Greca & Lopez, 1998) and is a better predictor of adolescent dating status than the SAS-A. The DAS-A was the first scale that analyzed dating from a developmental standpoint, evaluating attitudes towards dating among adolescents.

The Experiences in Close Relationships - Revised (ECR-R) was developed by Fraley, Waller, & Brennan, in 2000. It is a 36-item measure designed to evaluate one's attachment style in romantic relationships. This scale was included in this survey to account for individual differences and to evaluate if one's attitudes towards dating are correlated with their attachment style as opposed to being correlated with the number of one's potential dating pool.

The Multigroup Ethnic Identity Measure (MEIR) is a 12-item measure designed by Phinney 1992 and is used to evaluate the extent of one's ethnic identity. This scale was included in this survey to evaluate if one's ethnic identity is correlated with one's dating preferences, and therefore, if one's ethnic identity is correlated with one's attitudes about their perceived number of potential dating partners on his or her college campus.

The Rosenberg self-esteem measure is a 10-item questionnaire. It was used in this survey to evaluate if one's self esteem is correlated with one's attitudes towards dating.

Materials

The survey was created using the survey generator *Qualtrics*. The survey consists of approximately 150 questions in total. The survey will be online and will require participants to have access to a computer that has the Internet in order to complete the

study. All surveys will be sent back to the researcher's Qualtrics account and stored for the researcher to interpret at a later date.

<div align="center">Results</div>

H1: Infrequent dating will be related to high dating anxiety for minority groups.

A bivariate correlation revealed a significant negative correlation between dating frequency and dating anxiety in Asians ($r = -.530$, $p = .05$). The less dating partners Asians had, the more dating anxiety they exhibited. No other racial subgroup exhibited a significant correlation between dating frequency and dating anxiety. However, a bivariate correlation revealed a significant positive correlation between perception of potential dating mates and dating anxiety in Blacks. Specifically, there was a positive correlation between perception of dating mates and SD Date *($r = .467$, $p = .05$)*. The more dating options Blacks perceived there to be on campus, the more likely they will experience distress while on a date or during interactions with a potential dating partner. In addition, Blacks showed a positive correlation between perception of dating mates and FNE Dating *($r = .456$, $p=.05$)*. The more dating options Blacks perceive there to be on campus, the more they are concerned that a date or a member of the opposite sex will judge them in a negative manner.

H2: High dating anxiety will be positively correlated with poor attachment across all racial groups.

A bivariate correlation revealed a significant positive correlation between dating anxiety and attachment for all racial groups. However, the correlations among the subscales for dating anxiety and attachment in romantic relationships varied for each racial group.

Whites exhibited a positive correlation between FNE Dating and ANX attachment ($r = .679$, $p = .01$). The more concerned Whites are that a date or a member of the opposite sex will judge them in a negative manner, the more insecure they are about their partner's availability and responsiveness.

Blacks exhibited a positive correlation between FNE Dating and ANX attachment ($r = .700$, $p = .01$). The more concerned Blacks are that a date or a member of the opposite sex will judge them in a negative manner, the more insecure they are about their partner's availability and responsiveness. Blacks also exhibited a positive correlation between SD Date and ANX attachment ($r = .372$, $p = .05$). The more distress Blacks experience while on a date and in interactions with potential dating partners, the more they insecure they are about their partner's availability and responsiveness. Finally, Blacks exhibited a positive correlation between SD Date and AVD attachment ($r = .362$, $p = .05$). The more distress Blacks experience while on a date and during interactions with a potential dating partners, the more uncomfortable they are with being close to and depending on others.

Latinos exhibited a positive correlation between FNE Dating and ANX attachment ($r = .372$, $p = .05$). The more concerned Latinos are that a date or a member of the opposite sex will judge them in a negative manner, the more insecure they are about their partner's availability and responsiveness. Latinos also exhibited a positive correlation between SD Group and AVD attachment ($r = .649$, $p = .05$). The more distress Latinos experience during heterosexual group situations, the more they feel uncomfortable being close to others and depending on others.

Finally, Asians exhibited a positive correlation between SD Date and AVD attachment ($r = .539$, $p = .05$). The more distress Asians experience on a date and during

interactions with a potential dating partners, the more uncomfortable they are in being close to others and depending on others.

H3: High dating anxiety will be related to low self-esteem across all racial groups.

A bivariate correlation revealed a significant negative correlation between dating anxiety and self-esteem for all racial groups except Asians. Whites ($r=-.820, p = .01$), Blacks ($r=-.585, p = .01$), and Latinos ($r=-.818, p = .01$) all exhibited a negative correlation between FNE Dating and self-esteem. The lower self-esteem these groups have, the more worried these racial groups are that a date or a member of the opposite sex will judge them in a negative light. Also, there was a negative correlation between low self-esteem and SD Date for Whites ($r=-.554, p = .05$) and Blacks ($r=-.382, p = .01$). The less self esteem these groups have, the more distress they will experience while on a date or in interactions with a potential dating partner.

H4: There are ethnic and gender differences in dating and dating anxiety.

A one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) revealed significant differences between races on the Multigroup Ethnic Identity Measure (MEIM). The MEIM subscale commitment (COMT) showed significant group differences, $F (4,80) = 2.83, p = .030$. A post hoc analysis of COMT revealed that whites are significantly less commitment to their ethnic identity ($M=20.5882$) than Blacks ($M=24.3226$), Latinos ($M=23.2308$), and Asians ($M= 23.4375$). An ANOVA also revealed significant differences in ethnic identity exploration (EXPL), $F (4,80) = 5.81, p = .000$. A post hoc analysis of EXPL revealed that Whites were less likely to explore their ethnic identity ($M =12.2941$) in comparison to Blacks ($M =16.4516$), Latinos ($M =15.4615$), and Asians ($M =15.0625$).

Post Hoc test comparing the means of self-esteem scores of Blacks and Whites revealed that the difference between these two groups is approaching significance; Whites (M =18.7895) expressed have higher self-esteem than Blacks (M=18.7895), F (4,84) = 1.455, p = .085.

Post Hoc analysis also revealed that the group difference between Asians and Blacks on DAS is approaching significance. Results who that Asians have higher dating anxiety (M =51.8920) than Blacks (M =43.8206), p = .086.

Finally, a post hoc analysis revealed that the group difference between Asians and Blacks on the FNE Dating is approaching significance. Asians express more fear of negative evaluation (M =31.6875) and Blacks (M =25.7188), p = .046.

An one-way ANOVA revealed significant difference between genders in the perception of potential dating partners on campus. The results show that male perceive there to be more dating options (M = 3.52) on campus than females M = 2.43, F (1, 82) = 26.233 p = .000 (Table 4d). In addition, an one-way ANOVA revealed approaching significant differences between genders on the frequency of dating. Males have had more dating partners (m= 2.27) than females (m= 1.92), F (1, 80) = 3.632, p = .060.

Discussion

Although all racial groups reported dating on average 1-3 partners thus far in their college career, having few dating partners was linked to high dating anxiety for only Asians. This finding may be due to cultural differences between collectivistic and individualistic cultures. A collectivistic culture is a society in which people identify themselves with the goals of the group much more so than the goals of individuals (Brehm, Kassin, & Fein 2005). Collectivism also focuses on things such as fitting into the

group, behaving in ways that are line with social norms, and gaining a sense of identity from being part of the group. Eastern cultures, such as the Chinese and Japanese, tend to place more value on collectivism than western cultures. In contrast people in individualistic cultures tend to value personal gain and ideals such as freedom, independence, being unique, and standing out (Brehm, Kassin, & Fein 2005). The United States is considered to be an individualistic society. Because Asian cultures are more collectivistic than western cultures, self-concept for Asians is highly influenced by the opinions of their relatives, friends, and others with whom they identify. So if infrequent dating is viewed as a sign of social rejection in collectivistic cultures, then culture differences can account for the find that the lack of dating is correlated with high dating anxiety for Asians but not for the other races that tend to place more value on individualism.

There is current literature supporting the finding that negative attitudes towards dating is correlated with anxiety for Latinos and Whites (Tucker & Mitchell-Kernan, 1998) However, there seems to be a lack of current literature supporting the finding that dating anxiety is correlated with insecure attachment for Blacks, which reflects a lack of current research on Black psychology. The lack of current literature on Blacks and attachment is alarming because Blacks had the most correlations between dating anxiety and insecure attachment than any other racial group (refer to Table 2). Perhaps the current research can provide a better understanding of how dating anxiety may differ amongst different ethnicities.

High dating anxiety was correlated with low self-esteem across all racial groups except Asians. These findings suggest that self-esteem can impact one's dating frequency

and is consisted with current research, such as a study conducted by Samet & Kelly in 1987 which found that adolescents who have steady dating frequency have higher self-esteem (Samet & Kelly, 1987). Also, culture differences can account for the findings that self-esteem of more individualistic races (Blacks, Whites, and Latinos) is related to dating anxiety while the self-esteem of a more collectivistic race (Asian) is not impacted by dating anxiety. This is because the measure of self-esteem is based on an individual's personal opinion of themselves while the self-esteem of collectivistic cultures is based on the opinions of others. Thus, the individualistic measure of self-esteem used in this study would not impact Asian's anxiety towards dating because their self worth is based on the opinions of others. This is again related to the first hypothesis that having fewer dating partners (potentially being socially undesirable) is related to high dating anxiety for Asians.

Finally, analysis of variance and post hoc test revealed that there are significant differences in the experience of dating anxiety for Blacks and Asians. This again highlights the cultural differences between individual and collectivistic cultures. Maybe a more randomized study will reveal more ethnic and cultural differences between groups. Also, analysis of variance and post hoc test revealed gender differences in self-reported measure of dating mates and one's perception of the number of potential dating mates; males report dating more frequently and having a larger dating pool than do women. However, there were no gender differences in dating anxiety. Again, a more randomized study may find gender differences in dating and dating anxiety that the present study did not reveal.

<center>Conclusion</center>

Dating plays a significant role in development during adolescence. The college campus provides those in late adolescence the setting for dating experimentation and exploration, but a lack of potential mates one's college campus could impede the dating process and impact one's social development. The current study illustrated that there are ethnic differences on attitudes towards dating at the University of Southern California. This research provides insight into the possible occurrences at other private, majority white institutions. Limitations to this pilot study include method of subject recruitment; all the subjects recruited via Facebook.com knew the principal investigator, and thus the results may reflect an experimenter bias. In the future the principal investigator hopes to conduct a study with a larger and randomized sample size to improve validity. Also, the principal investigator hopes to investigate how unrealistic ideals about romance are related to dating frequency and dating anxiety and to further analyze the ethnic and cultural differences in dating and dating anxiety. The findings of the present study provides awareness into a social adjustment issue that ethnic minorities and women experience in higher education and highlights the need for intervention to counteract these social adjustment issues.

References

Alexander, B. (2004). Number of Black Men in College Dwindle: Only 35% graduate within six years from college. Bet.com.

Alterovitz, S. S., & Mendelsohn, G. A. (2009). Partner preferences across the life span: Online dating by older adults. Psychology and Aging, 24(2), 513-517.

American Psychiatric Association. (2000) Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders, 4th ed. Washington, DC.

Arkowitz, H., Lichenstein, E., McGovern K., & Hines, P. The assessment of social competency in males. Behavioral Therapy, 1975, 1, 3-14.

Beidel, D. C., Turner, S. M., & Morris, T. L. (1995). A new inventory to assess childhood social anxiety and phobia: The social phobia and anxiety inventory for children. Psychological Assessment, 7(1), 73-79.

Brehm, S.S., Kassin, S., & Fein, S. (2005). Social Psychology. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH); 6 edition (April 30, 2005).

Bronzaft, A. L. (1991). Career, marriage, and family aspirations of young Black college women. Journal of Negro Education, 60. 110-118.

Calvert, J.D., Moore D., Jensen B.J. (1987). Psychometric Evaluation of the Dating Anxiety Survey: A Self-Report Questionnaire for the Assessment of Dating Anxiety in Males and Females. Journal of Psychopathology and Behavioral Assessment, 9. 341-350.

Chorney, D.B., Morris, T.L., 2008. The Changing Face of Dating Anxiety: Issues in Assessment With Special Populations. American Psychological Asoociation, 224-238.

Connoly, J., Craig, W., Goldberg, A., & Pepler, D. (1999). Conceptions of cross-sex

   friendships and romantic relationships in early adolescence. Journal of Youth and

   Adolescence, 28, 481-494.

Connolly, J. A., & Konarski, R. (1994). Peer self-concept in adolescence: Analysis of

   factor structure and of association with peer experience. Journal of Research on

   Adolescence, 4, 385-403.

Csikszentmihalyi, M. & Larson, R. (1984) Being adolescent: Conflict and growth in the

   teenage years. New York: Basic Books.

Davies P. T., & Windle, M. (2000). Middle adolescents' dating pathways and

   psychosocial adjustment. Merrill-Palmer Quarterly, 46, 90-118.

Essau, C.A., Conradt, J., & Petermann, F. (2000). Frequency, comorbidity, and

   psychosocial impairment of specific phobia in adolescents. Journal of Clinical

   Child Psychology, 29, 221-231.

Feiring, C. (1996). Concepts of romance in fifteen year old adolescents. Journal of

   Research on Adolescence, 6, 181-200.

Furman, W., & Shaffer, L. (2003). The role of romantic relationships in adolescents

   development. In P. Florsheim (Ed.), Adolescent romantic relations and sexual

   behavior: Theory, research, and practical implications (pp. 3-22). Mahwah, NJ:

   Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Inc.

Glickman, A. R., & La Greca, A. M. (2004). The Dating Anxiety Scale for Adolescents:

   Scale development and associations with adolescent functioning. *Journal of

   Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology*, 33, 566-578.

Grover, R. L. (2008). Riding the second wave of research on dating anxiety: Commentary on chorney and morris (2008). Clinical Psychology: Science and Practice, 15(3), 239-242

Hope DA, Heimberg RG. (1990) Dating anxiety. In: Leitenberg H, ed. Handbook of social and evaluation anxiety. New York: Plenum Press.

Jet Magazine, August 26 2002 "Why more Black women are dating white men".

Klaus, D., Hersen, M., & Bellack, A. S. (1977). Survey of dating habits of male and female college students: A necessary predursor to measurement and modification. *Journal of Clinical Psychology*, 33, 49-61.

La Greca, A. M., & Lopez, N. (1998). Social anxiety among adolescents: Linkages with peer relations and friendships. *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology*, 26, 83-94.

Leitenberg, H. (. (1990). Handbook of social and evaluation anxiety. New York, NY, US: Plenum Press. Retrieved from PsycINFO

Nangle, D. W., & Hansen, D. J. (1998). Adolescent heterosocial competence revisited: Implications of an extended conceptualization for the prevention of high-risk sexual interactions. Education & Treatment of Children, 21(4), 431-446.

Porter, M.M., 1995. Do the future plans of educated Black women include Black males? Journal of Negro Education, Spring 1995.

Pirog-Good, M. A. (Ed) (1), & Stets, J. E. (. (Eds.). (1989). Violence in dating relationships: Emerging social issues. New York, NY, England: Praeger Publishers.

Raffaelli, M., 2005. Adolescent dating experiences described by Latino college students. Journal of Adolescence, 28, 559-572.

Samet, N., Kelly E.W. (1987). The relationship of steady dating to self-esteem and sex role identity among adolescents. Adolescence. Spring;22(85):231-45

Staples, R. (1981). The world of Black singles: Changing patterns of male/female relations. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press.

Seidman, S. N., & Rieder, R. O. (1994). A review of sexual behavior in the united states. The American Journal of Psychiatry, 151(3), 330-341. Retrieved from CSA Sociological Abstracts database.

Tucker, M.B., Mitchell-Kernan, C. (1998). Psychological well-being and perceived marital opportunity among single African American, Latina and White women. Journal of Comparative Family Studies, Vol. 29.

Washington, V., Newman, J. (1991). Setting our own agenda: Exploring the meaning of gender disparities among Blacks in higher education. Journal of Negro Education, 60, 19-35.

Yeakey, C. C. & Bennett, C. T. (1990). Race, schooling and class in American society. Journal of Negro Education, 59, 10-15.

Table 1a

Correlation Between Dating Frequency and Dating Anxiety

	Asian	White	Black	Latino
DF & SD Date	$r = -.530^*$	---	---	---

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).
*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Table 1b

Correlation Between Perception of Dating Options and Dating Anxiety

	Blacks	Whites	Latino	Asian
Perception & SD Date	$r = .467,$ $p = .05$	---	---	---
Perception & FNE Date	$(r = .456,$ $p=.05$	---	---	---

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).
*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Table 2

Correlation Between Dating Anxiety and Attachment Style

	Black	**Latino**	**White**	**Asian**
FNE & ANX	*r* = .700**	*r* = .372*	*r* = .679**	---
SD DATE & AVD	*r* = .362*	---	---	---
SD DATE & ANX	*r* = .372*	---	---	*r* =.539*
SD GROUP & AVD	---	*r* = .649*	---	---

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).
*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Table 3

Correlation Between Dating Anxiety and Self-Esteem

	Black	**White**	**Latino**	**Asian**
FNE & SE	*r*=-.585**	*r*=-.820**	*r*=-.818**	---
SD DATE & SE	*r*=-.382**	*r*=-.554*	---	---
SD GROUP & SE	---	---	---	---

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).
*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Table 4a

ANOVA – Differences Between Races on MEIM Commitment

	Whites	**Significance**
Blacks *M* =16.4516	*M* =20.5882	*p* = .000
Latinos *M* =15.4615	*M* =20.5882	*p* = .004
Asians *M* = 15.0625	*M* =20.5882	*p* = .007

F (4,80) = 2.83 *p* = .030

Table 4b

ANOVA – Differences Between Races on MEIM Exploration

	Whites	**Significance**
Blacks *M*=24.3226	*M* =12.2941	*p* = .002
Latinos *M* =23.2308	*M* =12.2941	*p* = .062
Asians *M* = 23.4375	*M* =12.2941	*p* = .034

F (4,80) = 5.81 p = .000

Table 4c

ANOVA and POST HOC Results for SE, DAS, FNE Dating

SE F (4,84) = 1.455, p = .223	DAS F (4,85) = .969, p = .429	FNE Dating F (4,85) = 1.314, p = .271
Whites (*M* =18.7895) >B (*M* =16.3226) *p* = .085	Asians (*M* =51.8920) > Blacks (*M*=43.8206) *p* = .086	Asians (*M* =31.6875) > Blacks (*M* =25.7188) *p* = .046

Table 4d

ANOVA - Comparing Dating Perceptions and Dating Frequency and By Gender

	Males	**Females**	**Significance**
Perception of Dating Partners *F* (1, 82) = 26.233	*M* = 3.52	*M* = 2.43	*p* = .000
Frequency of Dates *F* (1, 80) = 3.632	*M* = 2.27	*M* = 1.92	*p* = .060