

Familial Responses to Financial Instability, "It's All Your Fault": Predictors and Implications of Blame in Couples Under Economic Strain, 2009

Diamond & Hicks

Question	Response	Respondents ^a	Variable Name	Unweighted Frequencies		
Relationship Quality						
How well does your partner meet your needs?	1 Not at all	Married or cohabiting R	q1	8		
	2 A little			28		
	3 Moderately			114		
	4 Quite a bit			459		
	5 Extremely			649		
In general, how satisfied are you with your relationship?	1 Not at all		Married or cohabiting R	q2	11	
	2 A little				25	
	3 Moderately				114	
	4 Quite a bit				379	
	5 Extremely				726	
How much do you wish you hadn't gotten into this relationship?	1 Not at all			Married or cohabiting R	q3	1,022
	2 A little					148
	3 Moderately					51
	4 Quite a bit					16
	5 Extremely					19
How much do you love your partner?	1 Not at all	Married or cohabiting R			q4	5
	2 A little					17
	3 Moderately					56
	4 Quite a bit					264
	5 Extremely					910
How many problems are there in your relationship?	1 Not at all		Married or cohabiting R		q5	355
	2 A little					693
	3 Moderately					152
	4 Quite a bit					46
	5 Extremely					6
I find it relatively easy to get close to my partner and am comfortable depending on him/her and having him/her depend on me. I don't often worry about my partner abandoning or getting too close to me.	1 Not at all			Married or cohabiting R	q6	186
	2 A little					61
	3 Moderately					95
	4 Quite a bit					276
	5 Extremely					633

I am somewhat uncomfortable being close to my partner; I find it difficult to trust him/her completely, difficult to allow myself to depend on him/her. I am nervous when he/she gets too close. Often, he/she wants me to be more intimate than I feel comfort.	1 Not at all 2 A little 3 Moderately 4 Quite a bit 5 Extremely	Married or cohabiting R	q7	1,010 141 67 27 9
I find that my partner is reluctant to get as close as I would like. I often worry that my partner doesn't really love me or won't want to stay with me. My desire to get as close as possible to my partner sometimes seems to scare him/her away.	1 Not at all 2 A little 3 Moderately 4 Quite a bit 5 Extremely		q8	952 164 72 38 16
To what extent have you felt close/connected in your interactions with your partner in the last 6 months?	1 Not at all 2 A little 3 Moderately 4 Quite a bit 5 Extremely		q9	21 71 160 403 594
How much do you feel that you and your partner share and are working together towards your financial goals for the future?	1 Not at all 2 A little 3 Moderately 4 Quite a bit 5 Extremely		q10	19 50 137 428 616
How much do you feel that you and your partner share and are working together towards other goals for the future?	1 Not at all 2 A little 3 Moderately 4 Quite a bit 5 Extremely		q11	26 64 147 470 543
How likely is it that you will still be in this relationship 1 year from now?	1 Not at all 2 A little 3 Moderately 4 Quite a bit 5 Extremely		q12	5 8 14 100 1,128
How much do you think about leaving this relationship?	1 Not at all 2 A little 3 Moderately 4 Quite a bit 5 Extremely		q13	1,078 122 30 13 8

How much do financial matters influence whether you stay in this relationship?	1 Not at all	Married or cohabiting R	q14	956
	2 A little			136
	3 Moderately			73
	4 Quite a bit			55
	5 Extremely			26

Finances

How has your overall financial situation changed over the past year? Would you say...	1 It has gotten much worse	Married or cohabiting R	q15	106
	2 It has gotten slightly worse			440
	3 It has not changed			395
	4 It has gotten slightly better			240
	5 It has gotten much better			72

How much does your own personal income contribute to the total household income?	1 None	Married or cohabiting R	q16	95
	2 Less than half			370
	3 Half			235
	4 More than half			407
	5 All			146

HAVE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTED TO MONEY PROBLEMS IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD THIS YEAR?		Married or cohabiting R	q17	
1. Loss or change in my partner's employment	1 Yes			172
	2 No			1,067

2. Loss or change in my employment	1 Yes	177
	2 No	1,065

3. My health care expenses	1 Yes	199
	2 No	1,040

4. My partner's health care expenses	1 Yes	176
	2 No	1,063

5. My debts and/or spending	1 Yes	185
	2 No	1,053

6. My partner's debts and/or spending	1 Yes	181
	2 No	1,057

DO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING APPLY TO YOUR CURRENT SITUATION?		Married or cohabiting R	q23	
1. I am to blame for our current money problems	1 Yes			142
	2 No	1,089		

2. My partner is to blame for our current money problems	1 Yes	Married or cohabiting R	q24	112
	2 No			1,118
3. The national economic crisis is to blame for our current money problems	1 Yes	Married or cohabiting R	q25	668
	2 No			572
How often do you worry that your total family income will not be enough to meet your family's expenses and bills? Would you say...	1 Never		q26	213
	2 Hardly ever			354
	3 Once in a while			410
	4 Often			188
	5 Almost all the time			86
Which of the following is MOST responsible for money problems in your family this year?	1 Me		q27	138
	2 My partner			105
	3 The national economic crisis			951
Over the course of the next year, do you think the financial situation of you and your family will...	1 Improve a lot		q28	56
	2 Improve some			514
	3 Stay the same			483
	4 Get a little worse			167
	5 Get a lot worse			31

^a Respondents are about 600 opposite sex married or cohabiting couples. Both partners were invited to participate in the survey at the same time. (n=1,264).

This research is supported by the National Center for Family & Marriage Research, which is funded by a cooperative agreement, grant number 5 U01 AE000001-03, between the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) in the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Bowling Green State University.

National Center for Family & Marriage Research

website: <http://ncfmr.bgsu.edu>

e-mail: ncfmr@bgsu.edu