



# FAMILY MATTERS, BUT SOMETIMES CHOSEN FAMILY MATTERS MORE: PERCEIVED SOCIAL NETWORK INFLUENCE IN THE DATING DECISIONS OF SAME- AND MIXED-SEX COUPLES



## WHAT DID WE WANT TO LEARN?

*Does social support from ...*



**Parents**

OR



**Friends**

*... play a more important role in predicting relational and health outcomes?*

## HOW DID WE COLLECT DATA?

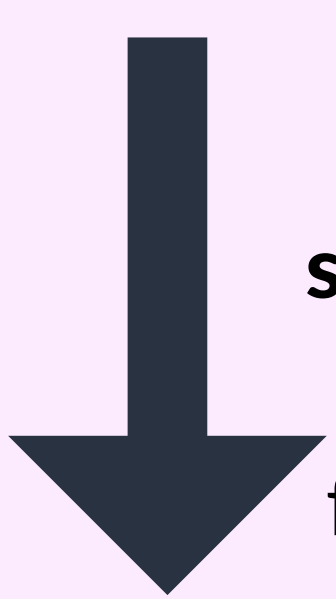
We asked a sample of 698 heterosexual and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) participants about:



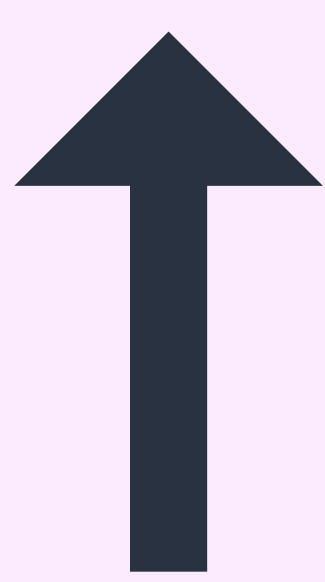
1. Past experiences of relationship disapproval from friends and family
2. Levels of importance assigned to various sources of social approval for relationships
3. Whether or not they would end a hypothetical relationship based on disapproval from parents, heterosexual friends or LGBTQ friends.

## WHAT DID WE FIND?

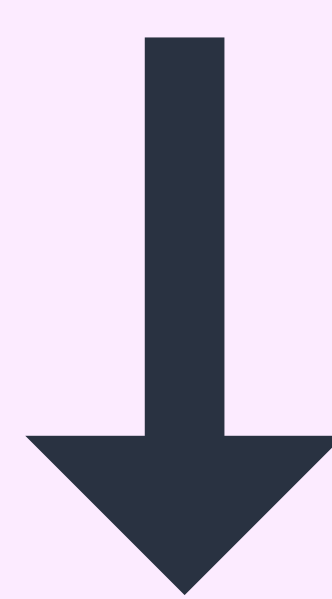
Compared to individuals in mixed-sex relationships, individuals in same-sex relationships:



often perceive **less social support** for their relationships from parents as compared to friends



place **more value on relationship approval** from friends



are **less likely to end a relationship** based on parental disapproval

## HOW IS THIS RESEARCH IMPACTFUL?

Research has consistently linked higher levels of social support for relationships with better relational and health outcomes.



We shed light on the question of the relative importance of social support for relationships from parents and friends in both mixed-sex and same-sex relationships.



This study has opened up new avenues for exploring the role of social support from parents and friends in the relationship experiences of individuals in same- and mixed-sex couples.

