

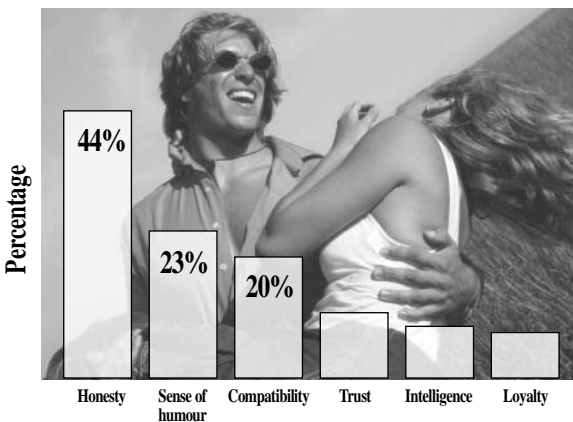


Edmontonians' poll station

By Linda Banister

It's that time of year again, when the birds are chirping, the flowers are in full bloom and love is in the air. It is a popular time of year for couples to tie the knot, and an even more popular time for new couples to come together. In this month's *Poll Station*, we focused on the topic of love and asked Edmontonians about relationships, dating and the issues surrounding a successful relationship.

WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT CHARACTERISTICS IN A MATE?



Respondents were asked what they felt are the *most* important characteristics in a mate or partner. Almost half (44 percent) stated honesty was the most important factor, while 23 percent liked a sense of humour in their mate or partner, followed closely by trust (20 percent). Compatibility (nine percent), intelligence (eight percent) and loyalty (seven percent) also made the grade.

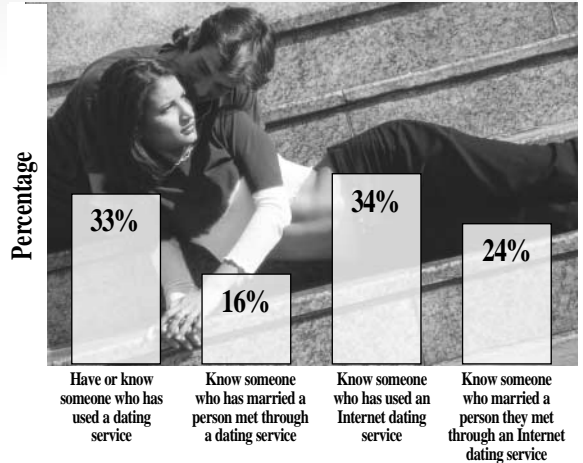
WHAT CHARACTERISTICS DO YOU LIKE LEAST?

When asked about the characteristics they like *least* in a mate or partner, respondents provided a long and varied list. The most common undesirable trait was lying and dishonesty (23 percent), followed by being bossy and controlling (12 percent), self-centred or egotistical (11 percent), or a drinker or smoker (nine percent).

WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO MEET SOMEONE NEW?

Next, respondents were asked to identify the best place to meet someone new. Females most frequently chose friends as the best way to meet a potential partner (16 percent), as opposed to males who just as often mentioned the bar as the best place (16 percent). Overall, 22 percent thought meeting a potential partner through friends was the best way, followed by at work (13 percent). Meeting at a bar, social function, or church each came in at eight percent.

HAVE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW USED A MATCHMAKING SERVICE?



With longer work hours, more commitments and less time in general, it is becoming harder to meet new people. So, we asked respondents if they or anyone they know had used a matchmaking service. One-third (33 percent) said either they or someone they know has used a live dating or matchmaker service, and 16 percent indicated either they or someone they know had married a person they met through the service. When asked if they or someone they know had ever used an Internet dating service, 34 percent said yes and 24 percent said they or someone they know had married a person they met online.

WHAT ONE THING ENSURES A LONG, HAPPY RELATIONSHIP?

Finally, respondents were asked what the number one thing is that a person can do to ensure a long and happy relationship. While respondents provided a diverse list, about one-third (32 percent) felt communication was the most important factor, followed closely by honesty (29 percent). Others listed willingness to compromise (11 percent), commitment from both sides (nine percent), and mutual respect (seven percent).

The *Poll Station* surveyed 100 City of Edmonton residents on the topic and, while the results of the research are not statistically reliable, they do provide a qualitative indication of what Edmontonians are thinking. ✓

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