

HANDBOOK *of* SEXUALITY-RELATED MEASURES

Edited by

Clive M. Davis

William L. Yarber

Robert Bauserman

George Schreer

Sandra L. Davis



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Hatfield, E., Schmitz, E., Cornelius, J., & Rapson, R. L. (1986). Passionate love: How early does it begin? *Journal of Psychology and Human Sexuality*, 1, 111-111.

Hatfield, E., & Sprecher, S. (1986). Measuring passionate love in intimate relations. *Journal of Adolescence*, 9, 383-410.

Hatfield, E., & Walster, G. W. (1978). *A new look at love*. Lanham, MA: University Press of America.

Exhibit

The Juvenile Love Scale

1. I feel like things would always be sad and gloomy if I had to live without _____ forever.
2. Did you ever keep thinking about _____ when you wanted to stop and couldn't?
3. I feel happy when I am doing something to make _____ happy.
4. I would rather be with _____ than anybody else.
5. I'd feel bad if I thought _____ liked somebody else better than me.
6. I want to know all I can about _____.
7. I'd like _____ to belong to me in every way.
8. I'd like it a lot if _____ played with me all the time.
9. If I could, when I grow up I'd like to marry (live with) _____.
10. When _____ hugs me my body feels warm all over.
11. I am always thinking about _____.
12. I want _____ to know me, what I am thinking, what scares me, what I am wishing for.
13. I look at _____ a lot to see if he (she) likes me.
14. When _____ is around I really want to touch him (her) and be touched.
15. When I think _____ might be mad at me, I feel really sad.

Possible answers range from

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Agree very little					Agree very much			

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The Passionate Love Scale

Elaine Hatfield,¹ *University of Hawaii at Manoa*

Hatfield and Walster (1978) defined passionate love as "a state of intense longing for union with another. Reciprocated love (union with the other) is associated with fulfillment and ecstasy. Unrequited love (separation) with emptiness, anxiety, or despair. A state of profound physiological arousal" (p. 9).

This emotion has sometimes been labeled "puppy love," "a crush," "lovesickness," "obsessive love," "infatuation,"

or "being in love." It includes a component of sexual desire. The Passionate Love Scale (PLS) is designed to measure this emotion.

Description

The PLS is a 15- or 30-item Likert-type scale (9 points) with response options ranging from *not at all true* to *definitely true*. It taps cognitive, emotional, and behavioral indicants of "longing for union."

Cognitive components. Cognitive components consist of the following:

¹Address correspondence to Elaine Hatfield, Department of Psychology, University of Hawaii at Manoa, 2430 Campus Road, Honolulu, HI 96822; email: elainch@uhcc.hawaii.edu.

1. Intrusive thinking or preoccupation with the partner: Items 5, 19, and 21.
2. Idealization of the other or of the relationship: Items 7, 9, and 15.
3. Desire to know the other and be known: Item 10 measures the desire to know; Item 22 measures the desire to be known.

Emotional components. Emotional components consist of the following:

1. Attraction to other, especially sexual attraction. Positive feelings when things go well: Items 16, 18, and 29.
2. Negative feelings when things go awry: Items 1, 2, 8, 20, 28, and 30.
3. Longing for reciprocity—passionate lovers not only love, but they want to be loved in return: Item 14.
4. Desire for complete and permanent union: Items 11, 12, 23, and 27.
5. Physiological arousal: Items 3, 13, 17, and 26.

Behavioral components. A passionate lover's desire for union may be reflected in a variety of behaviors:

1. Actions toward determining the other's feelings: Item 24.
2. Studying the other person: Item 4.
3. Service to the other: Items 6 and 25.
4. Maintaining physical closeness. (We had hoped to include some items designed to measure lovers' efforts to get *physically* close to the other, but lovers did not endorse such items, and they were dropped from the final version of the scale.)

Response Mode and Timing

Respondents circle the number indicating how true each statement is for them. The PLS can be given either individually or in large groups. The short version takes approximately 15 minutes to complete; the long version takes approximately 30 minutes.

Scoring

The individual items are simply summed to produce a total score.

Reliability

A series of studies indicate that the PLS is highly reliable. For example, Hatfield and Sprecher (1986) gave the PLS to 120 men and women at the University of Wisconsin. They attempted to determine whether the PLS is (a) unidimensional; (b) reliable, as indicated by a measure of internal consistency; (c) uncontaminated by a social desirability bias; and (d) correlated with other indicators of love and intimacy. They found that the PLS is a highly reliable scale. Coefficient alpha was .94. The shorter version of the PLS had only a slightly lower coefficient alpha, .91.

The PLS appears to be unidimensional. The responses to the PLS were subjected to principal components factoring, with multiple correlations used as communality esti-

mates. After rotation, one major factor explained 70% of the variance (eigenvalue = 12.24). The results suggest that the scale is uncontaminated by a social desirability bias. The correlation between the PLS and Crowne and Marlowe's (1964) Social Desirability Scale was nonsignificant ($r = .09$).

Validity

If the PLS is valid, it should be related to other variables in ways expected by past theoretical and empirical work. The PLS was highly correlated with other measures of love and intimacy. (See Easton, 1985; Hatfield, Schmitz, Cornelius, & Rapson, 1988; Hatfield & Sprecher, 1986; Sullivan, 1985; Sullivan & Landis, 1984, for additional information on the reliability and validity of the PLS.)

From the results of a number of studies, researchers have suggested that almost everyone is capable of loving passionately. Men and women (Easton, 1985), of widely varying ages (Hatfield et al., 1988; Traupmann & Hatfield, 1981), of varying intellectual capacities, mentally ill or healthy, of varying ethnic groups (Easton, 1985) seem capable of falling in love. However, the question as to whether there are sex and ethnic group differences in the readiness to love has long intrigued scientists. Men and women may not fall in love with equal frequency or intensity. Society encourages men and women to have somewhat different attitudes toward love, sex, and the desire for intimacy. When sex differences are found to exist (and often they are not), it is generally women who seem to love more passionately (see DeLamater, 1982; Peplau, 1983).

Various ethnic groups may also differ in the emotions they feel and express in close relationships. Easton (1985) provides information on PLS scores typically secured by men and women of various ethnic groups.

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