

Home > Journal > Social Sciences & Humanities > PSYCH

[Indexing](#) [View Papers](#) [Aims & Scope](#) [Editorial Board](#) [Guideline](#) [Article Processing Charges](#)

PSYCH > Vol.2 No.2, April 2011

OPEN ACCESS

Romantic Relationship Status and Gender Differences in Sun Tanning Attitudes and Behaviors of U.S. College Students

PDF (Size: 192KB) PP. 71-77 DOI: 10.4236/psych.2011.22012

Author(s)

Terry F. Pettijohn II, Terry F. Pettijohn, Alexandra G. Gilbert

ABSTRACT

Male and female college students (n = 353) involved in varying degrees of romantic relationships responded to a questionnaire investigating sun tanning attitudes and behaviors. Females were predicted to engage in sun tanning more frequently and have more positive attitudes about sun tanning than males. Those students who were dating were also predicted to engage in more sun tanning behaviors and have more positive attitudes regarding tanning compared to students who were not dating, in committed romantic relationships, or married. Results supported these predictions overall. Females, and college students who were dating, engaged in more risky sun tanning behaviors and are therefore especially at risk for health related consequences of sun tanning.

KEYWORDS

Sun Tanning, Gender Differences, Romantic Relationships, Skin Cancer

Cite this paper

Pettijohn II, T. , Pettijohn, T. & Gilbert, A. (2011). Romantic Relationship Status and Gender Differences in Sun Tanning Attitudes and Behaviors of U.S. College Students. *Psychology*, 2, 71-77. doi: 10.4236/psych.2011.22012.

References

- [1] Ajzen, I., & Fishbein, M. (1977). Attitude-behavior relations: A theoretical analysis and review of empirical research. *Psychological Bulletin*, 84, 888-918. doi: 10.1037/0033-2909.84.5.888
- [2] American Cancer Society (2010). *Cancer facts and figures*. Atlanta, GA: American Cancer Society.
- [3] Banerjee, S., Campo, S., & Greene, K. (2008). Fact or wishful thinking? Biased expectations in ' I think I look better when I' m tanned. *American Journal of Health Behavior*, 32, 243-252.
- [4] Brandberg, Y., Ullen, H., Sjoberg, L., & Holm, L. E. (1998). Sunbathing and sunbed use related to self-image in a randomized sample of Swedish adolescents. *European Journal of Cancer Prevention*, 7, 321-329. doi: 10.1097/00008469-199808000-00008
- [5] Broadstock, M., Borland, R., & Gason, R. (1992). Effects of suntan on judgements of healthiness and attractiveness by adolescents. *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*, 22, 157-172. doi: 10.1111/j.1559-1816.1992.tb01527.x
- [6] Buss, D. M. (1994). *The evolution of desire: Strategies of human mating*. New York: Basic Books.
- [7] Cafri, G., Thompson, J. K., Roehrig, M., Rojas, A., Sperry, S., Jacobsen, P. B., & Hillhouse, J. (2008). Appearance motives to tan and not tan: Evidence for validity and reliability of a new scale. *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, 35, 209-220. doi: 10.1007/s12160-008-9022-2
- [8] Cokkinides, V. E., Weinstock, M. A., O' Connell, M. C., & Thun, M. J. (2002). Use of indoor tanning sunlamps by US youth, ages 11-18 years, and by their parent or guardian caregivers: Prevalence and correlates. *Pediatrics*, 109, 1124-1130. doi: 10.1542/peds.109.6.1124
- [9] Forbes, G., Jobe, R., & Richardson, R. (2006). Associations between having a boyfriend and the body

- [Open Special Issues](#)
- [Published Special Issues](#)
- [Special Issues Guideline](#)

[PSYCH Subscription](#)

[Most popular papers in PSYCH](#)

[About PSYCH News](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Recommend to Peers](#)

[Recommend to Library](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Downloads: 247,343

Visits: 543,285

[Sponsors >>](#)

satisfaction and self-esteem of college women: An extension of the Lin and Kulik hypothesis. *Journal of Social Psychology*, 146, 381-384. doi:10.3200/SOCP.146.3.381-384

- [10] Lamanna, L. M. (2004). College students' knowledge and attitudes about cancer and perceived risks of developing skin cancer. *Dermatology Nursing*, 16, 161-167.
- [11] Leary, M. R., & Jones, J. L. (1993). The social psychology of tanning and sunscreen use: Self-presentational motives as a predictor of health risk. *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*, 23, 1390-1406. doi:10.1111/j.1559-1816.1993.tb01039.x
- [12] Lin, L. F., & Kulik, J. A. (2002). Social comparison and women's body satisfaction. *Basic and Applied Social Psychology*, 24, 115-123.
- [13] Long, B. (1983). A steady boy friend: A step toward resolution of the intimacy crisis for American college women. *Journal of Psychology: Interdisciplinary and Applied*, 115, 275-280. doi:10.1080/00223980.1983.9915445
- [14] Martin, J., Ghaferi, J., Cummins, D., Mamelak, A., Schmults, C., Parikh, M., & Liégeois, N. J. (2009). Changes in skin tanning attitudes: Fashion articles and advertisements in the early 20th century. *American Journal of Public Health*, 99, 2140-2146. doi:10.2105/AJPH.2008.144352
- [15] Mighall, R. (2008). I should Coco: As you prepare to 'cover up' on the beach this summer, lie back and enjoy Robert Mighall's true history of sunbathing. *History Today*, 58, 31-33.
- [16] Mosher, C. E., & Danoff-Burg, S. (2008). Social predictors of sunscreen and self-tanning product use. *Journal of American College Health*, 54, 166-168. doi:10.3200/JACH.54.3.166-168
- [17] Pettijohn, T. F. II, Pettijohn, T. F., & Geschke, K. S. (2009). Changes in sun tanning attitudes and behaviors of U.S. college students from 1995 to 2005. *College Student Journal*, 43, 161-165.
- [18] Reilly, A., & Rudd, N. A. (2008). Sun, salon, and cosmetic tanning: Predictors and motives. *International Journal of Human and Social Sciences*, 2, 170-176.