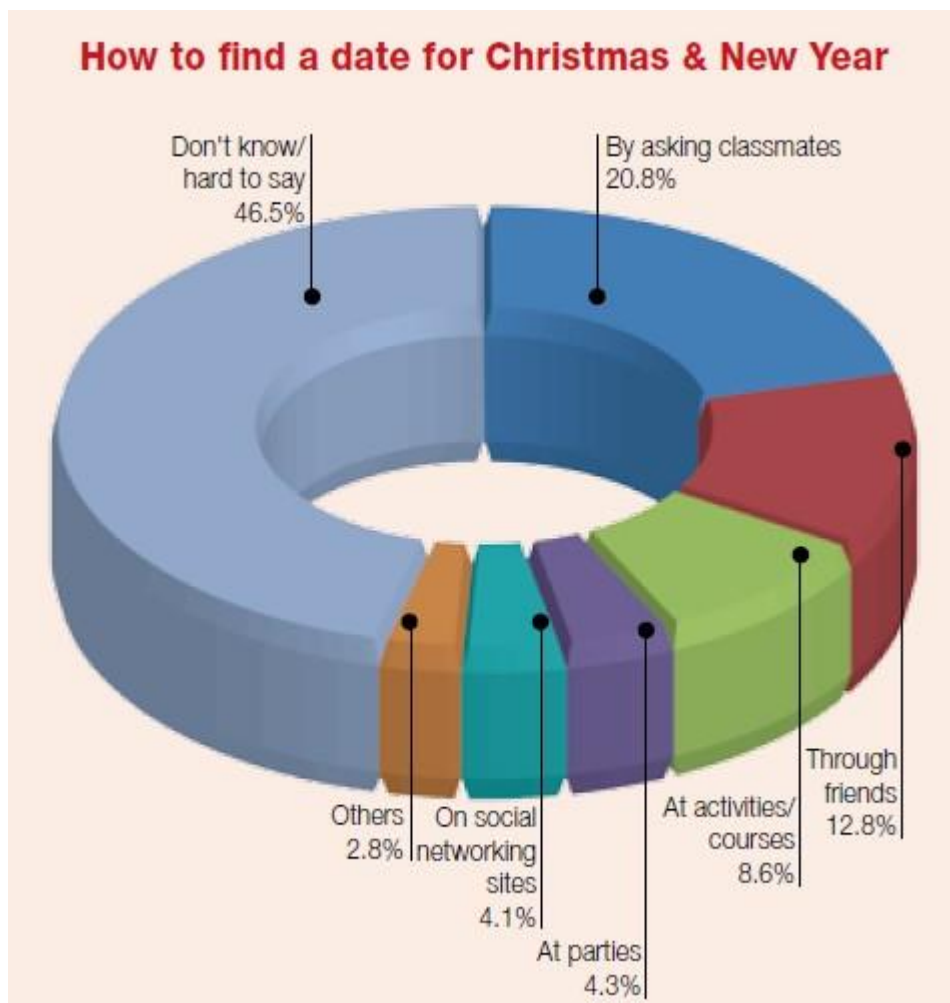


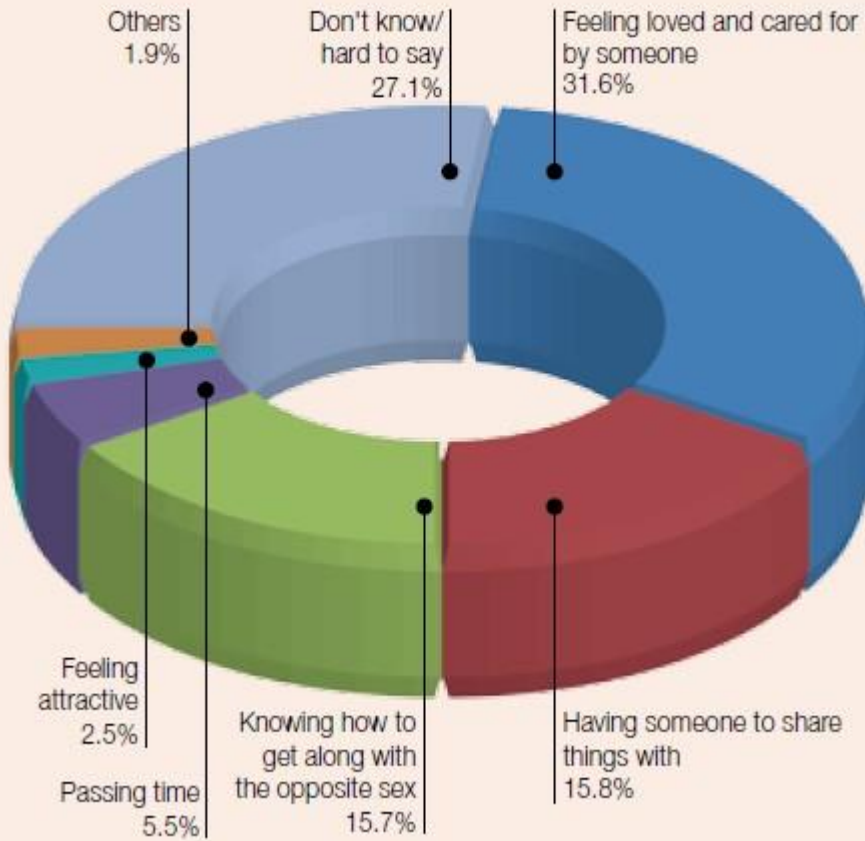
Dating, marriage and family Hong Kong opinions and trends

Young people's views on these complex subjects are collected by HKFYG on a regular basis. The charts on pages 24-25 represent opinions of over 1,650 secondary students at 31 schools sampled from 22 November - 3 December 2010.¹ The remaining charts are based on data collected in surveys of 15-39 year-olds for HKFYG's **Youth Trends in Hong Kong 2011**.²

As the festive season approaches many young people with no partner often feel left out of all the fun. Over 60% said they craved an opportunity to party, with over 50% hoping to go out all night. About 9% said they would feel embarrassed if they didn't have a date and about 19% said it would boost their confidence if they did.



Important aspects of a relationship

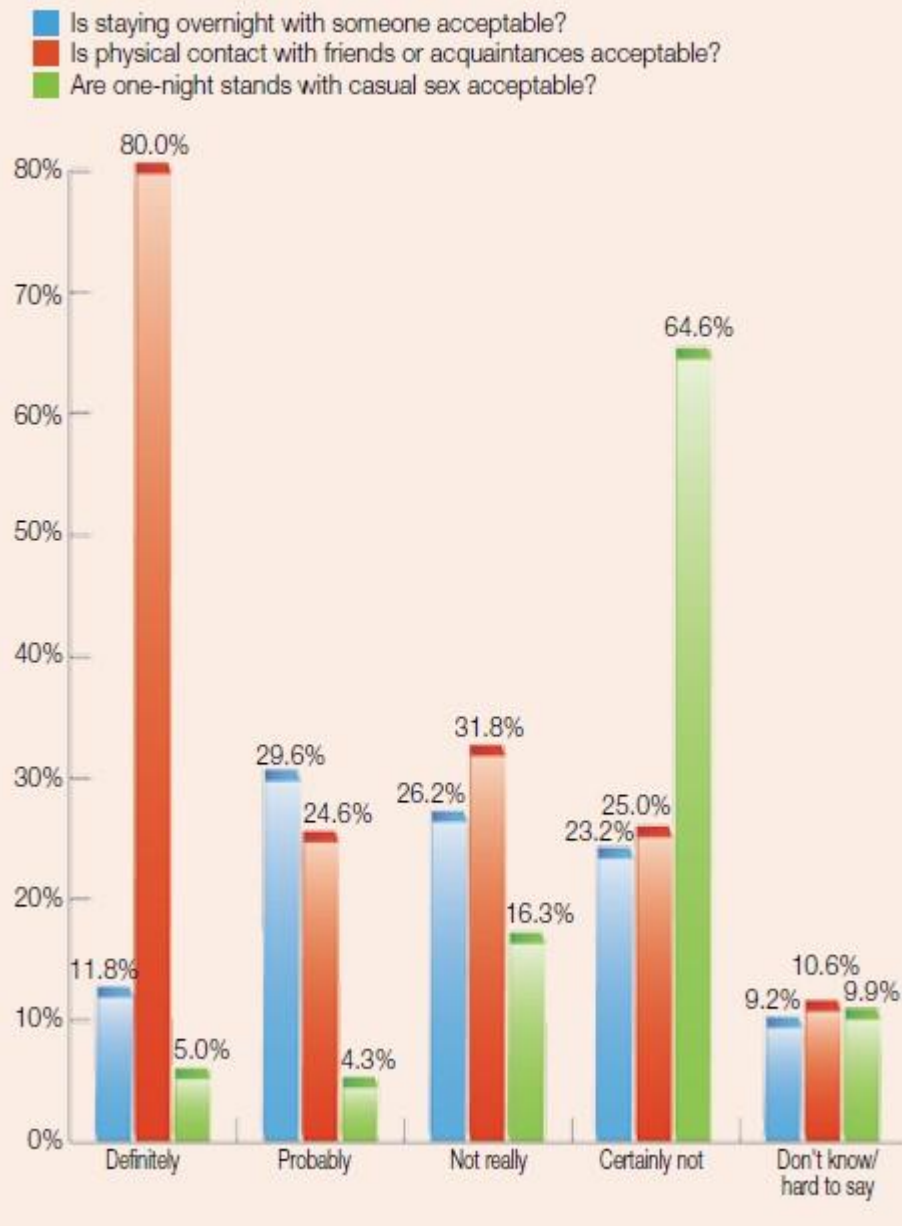


Assessing online relationships³

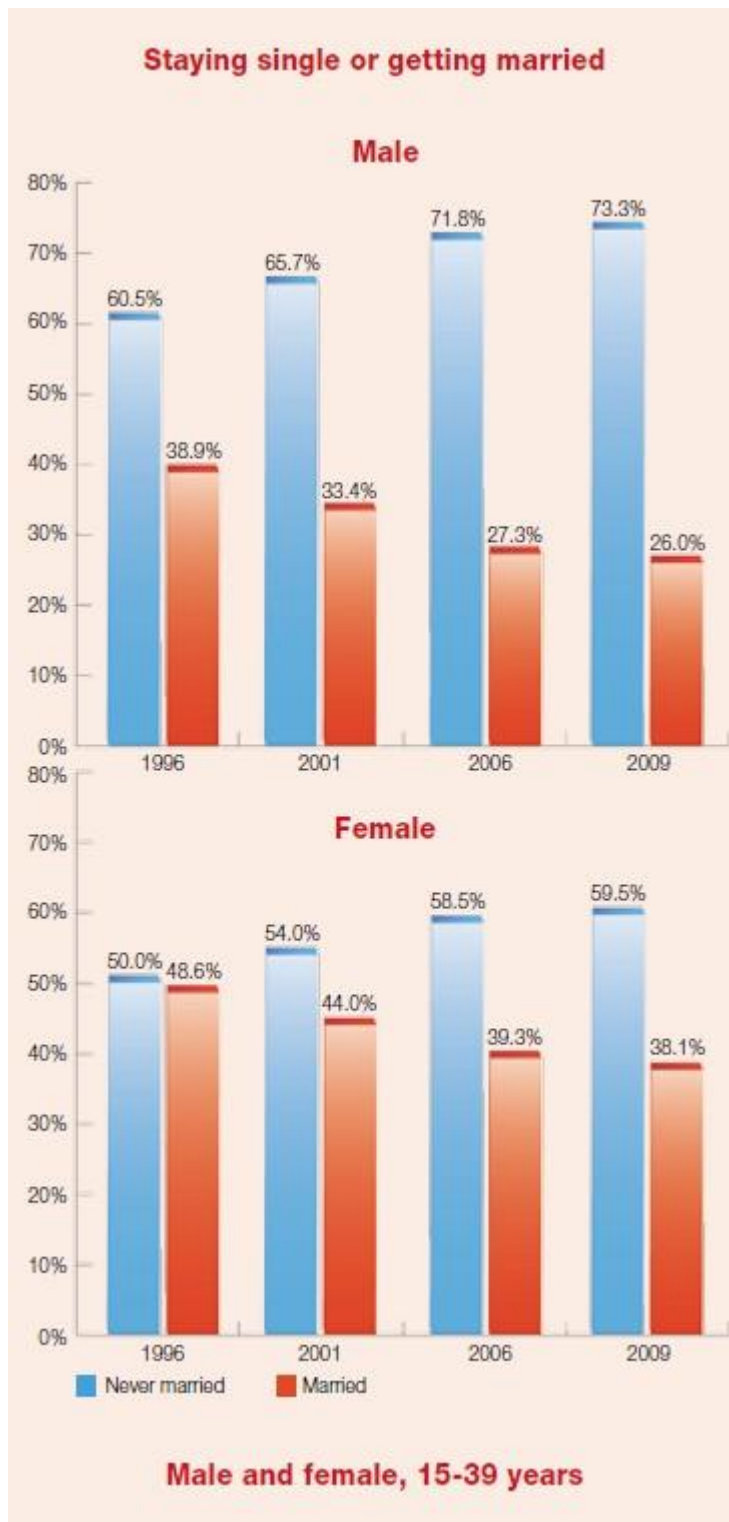
- Would you refuse an invitation to party from a social network friend?
- Would you consider a relationship with someone you had only met online?
- Do you think there can be no loyalty in relationships developed online?



Behaviour of couples in the festive season³

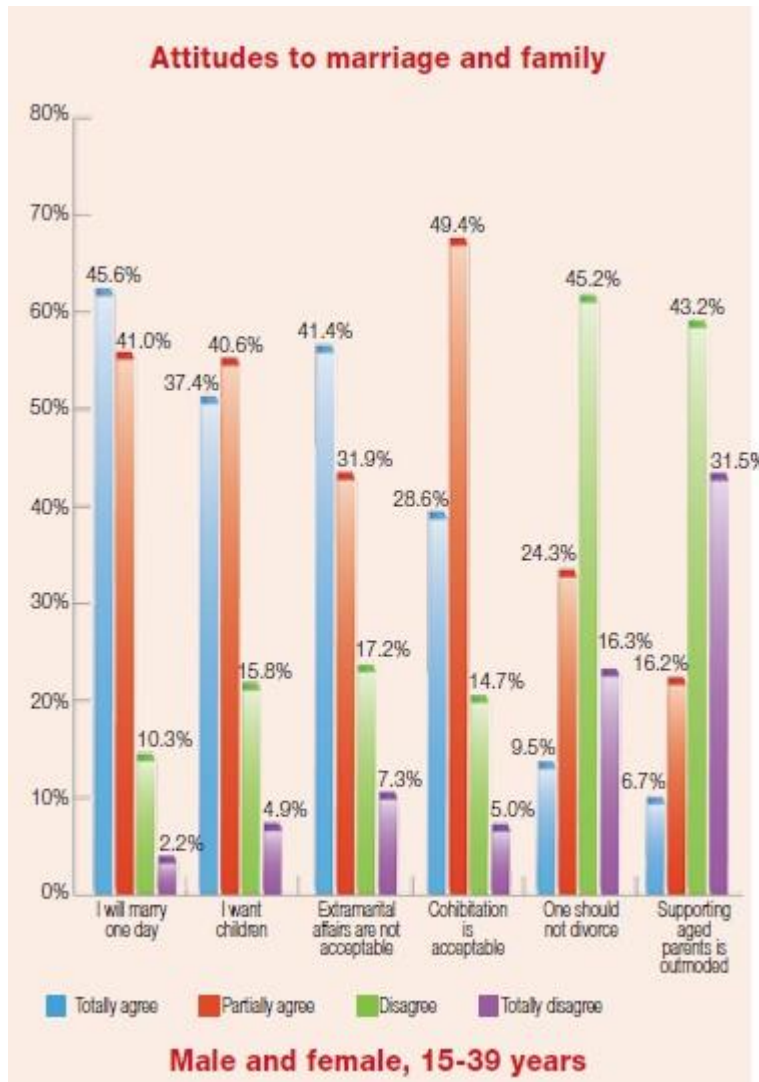


The mean age for marriage in Hong Kong is steadily rising. It is now 29-30 for women and 30-33 for men, several years later than in America where the average is 26 for women and 28 for men.⁴ The number of people staying single in Hong Kong is also on the rise.

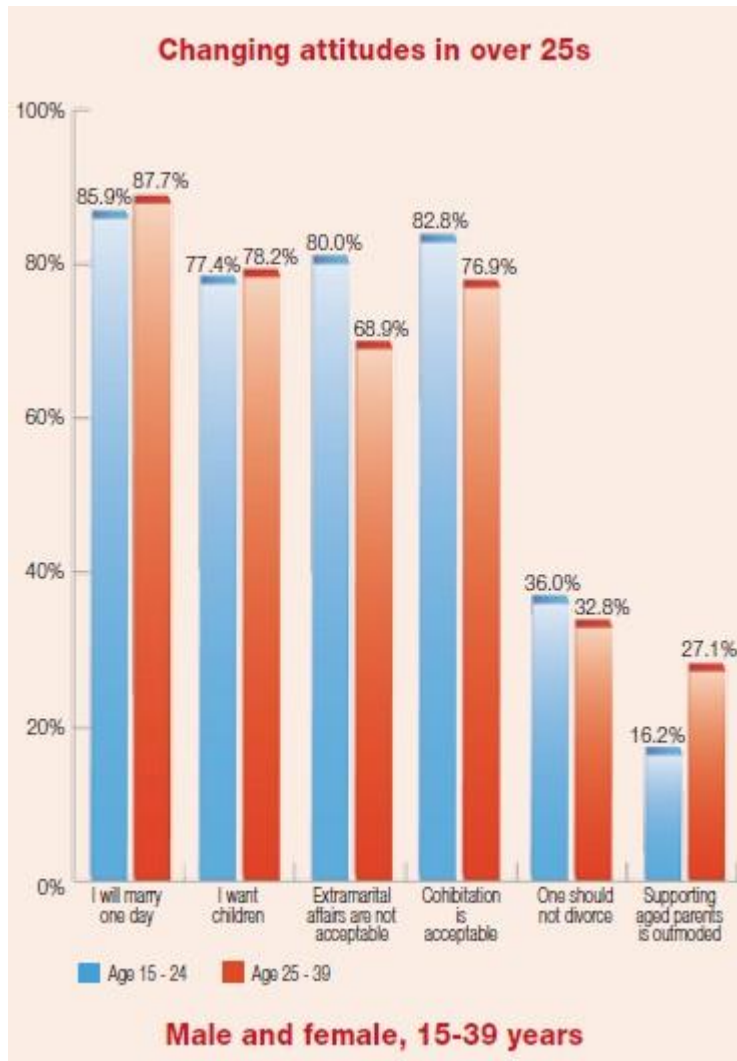


In some western countries, a quarter of people in their 30s are cohabiting or have always been single. In South Asia and China marriage is a fact of life for 98% of men and women. Even though marriage takes place later and the fertility rate is very low in Hong Kong, traditional attitudes to child-bearing persist. Couples tend to have children soon after getting married.

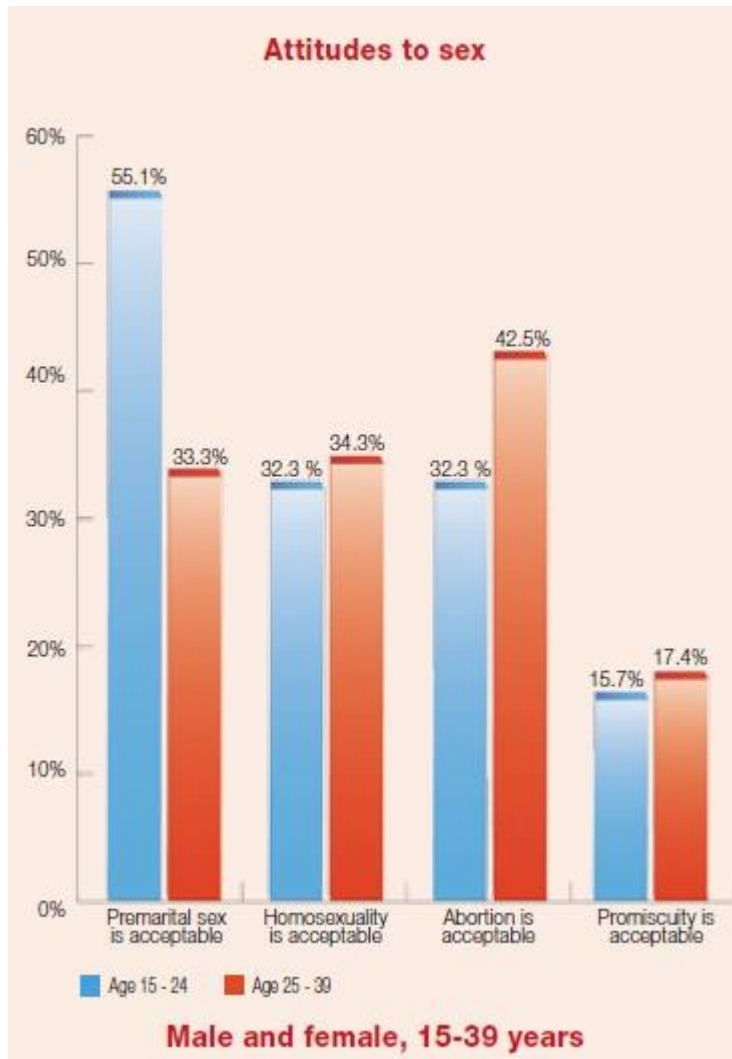
Delaying marriage is therefore a way of delaying the responsibilities of parenthood.



In 2010, 27% of all Hong Kong women their early 30s were single.⁵ The same was true of over 30% of all Japanese women of that age. 37% of all Taiwanese 30-34 year-old women were single. Changing marriage patterns reflect increased autonomy for women in Asia. They have more education and therefore more jobs. On the other hand, in mainland China there is the phenomenon of *guang gun* (bare branches) men who will not marry because of sex-selective abortion has resulted in fewer women than men.



Attitudes to premarital sex and intimacy have changed markedly in Hong Kong youngsters in the past 15 years. This phenomenon has been reported in surveys by The Family Planning Association of Hong Kong,⁶ and is corroborated by the HKFYG polls. A global study⁷ of attitudes and sexual well-being in 29 countries, including Hong Kong, found that there was a consistently low level of sexual well-being in Asian countries. In Hong Kong, sex rated less important for well-being than in any other country.⁸



Sources:

1. HKFYG Youth Poll Series No 204. *The Attitudes and Behaviours of Young Students during the Festive Season*. December 2010.
2. HKFYG, Youth Research Centre, *Youth Values Indicators, 2009*. Youth Trends Series 2011.
3. One-night stands with casual sexual partners have become a lot less acceptable in the last 4 years. The HKFYG 2007 survey [HKFYG Youth Poll Series No 169, December 2007] found almost 17% (16.8%) who said they would go on a one-night stand during the festive season. In the most recent survey (November-December 2010), this figure has dropped to just over 9%.
4. Asia's lonely hearts. *The Economist*. 20 August 2011, p9.
5. The flight from marriage. *The Economist*. Asian demography. 20 August 2011, p17-20.
6. Family Planning Association of Hong Kong. *Report of the Youth Sexuality Study 2006, 2009*. Chapter 7. <http://www.famplan.org.hk/fpahk/en/press/press/071123-press-eng.pdf>

7. Edward O. Laumann et al. *A Cross-National Study of Subjective Sexual Well-Being among Older Women and Men: Findings from the Global Study of Sexual Attitudes and Behaviors*.

<http://www-news.uchicago.edu/releases/06/images/060419.sex.pdf>

8. Carroll, Janell L. *Sexuality Now: embracing diversity*. 3ed ed. Cengage Brain, 2009.

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Article from Youth Hong Kong, December 2011 (Volume 3 Number 4) p.24-27