

Friendship Intimacy and Personality Findings: Aggregate Summary of Results

The following information is related to a study that you may have participated in at some point in February of 2023. If you participated in this study, you completed an online survey about a close friend who is of a gender that you would consider for a romantic or sexual relationship. The survey also included other measures such as self-esteem, sexism, and personality. The goal of this research was to understand if *friendship-based intimacy* (feelings of warmth, understanding, and connection to a friend) was linked with *passion-based intimacy* (passionate/sexual desire). Additionally, this study aimed to identify whether the relationship between friendship-based intimacy and passion-based intimacy changed based on self-esteem. We also explored how current romantic relationship status (e.g., single vs. in a long term committed relationship) influenced the relationship between friendship-based intimacy and passion-based intimacy. Previous studies in our lab suggest that *friend-first initiation*, which is the process of platonic friends entering a romantic relationship, is understudied in relationship science.

KEY FINDINGS:

Is friendship-based intimacy linked to passion-based intimacy?

→ Yes. The more participants reported closeness and intimacy within their friendship, the more likely they were to also experience passionate interest in their friend.

Does self-esteem influence the relationship between friendship-based intimacy and passion-based intimacy?

→ No. Being higher or lower in self-esteem did not change how friendship-based intimacy and passion-based intimacy were related.

Does relationship status influence the relationship between friendship-based intimacy and passion-based intimacy?

→ Yes. Participants who were single and who also reported greater friendship-based intimacy were more likely to report greater passionate interest in their chosen friend.

If you would like more information related to this study, please refer to:

Stinson, D. A., Cameron, J. J., & Hoplock, L. B. (2022). The friends-to-lovers pathway to romance: Prevalent, preferred, and neglected by science. *Social and Personality Psychology Science*, 13(2), 562-571. <https://doi.org/10.1177/19485506211026992>

Fisher, A. N., Stinson, D. A., Wood, J. V., Holmes, J. G., & Cameron, J. J. (2021). Singlehood and psychological attunement to friendships. *Social and Personality Psychology Science*, 12(7), 1326–1334. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1948550620988460>

Podcast with the Toronto Star: <https://www.thestar.com/podcasts/thismatters/2021/07/28/the-science-behind-why-you-should-date-your-friends-no-really.html>

If you have any questions or concerns about the study, please contact:

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Thank you again for your participation!