

New Study Says Men Want Sex, but Women Want Good Sex

A new study published in the journal *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin* looked at dating dealbreakers—those irritating or offensive or otherwise unacceptable things that kill our desire for a relationship with someone—and how they vary between men and women.

Researchers combined data from six studies (looking at a total of 6,500 people's dating preferences). For the most part, "Dealbreakers were associated with undesirable personality traits, with "disheveled" "lazy" and "needy" being the top three named by both men and woman, according to the study. Dealbreakers also centered around unhealthy lifestyles and having different sexual and romantic goals. Women had more dealbreakers than men (or, at the least, weighed them more heavily) and people with higher mate value (translation: who considered themselves a catch and a half) also tended to have more dealbreakers. Not surprising, right?

When it comes to casual, short-term relationships, *the Wall Street Journal reports* that only three main dealbreakers came up consistently: "has health issues, such as STDs," "smells bad" and "has poor hygiene." "Basically, for short-term partners, if they have a toothbrush, they're good to go," Gregory Webster, associate professor of social psychology at the University of Florida, told the *WSJ*. We like to think we're a bit more discerning than that, but research is research.

When looking for a more serious partner or a longer-term relationship, sex was a top dealbreaker for both men and women, but with a crucial difference: The *WSJ* reports that men found "low sex drive" to be a major dealbreaker, but that more women said "bad sex" was a no-go for them. It would seem that men are happy if they're getting it regularly, while would place more importance on the *quality* of the sex.

By *Marissa Gold*