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Are We Expecting Too Much from Ourselves?

Irina Dolgikh

The study investigated whether there was a time difference between what society expected people to experience at a certain age and the age at which people actually engaged in those behaviors. The sample consisted of 13 men and 46 women with the age range from 18 to 54 years. On-line questionnaires were used to obtain all data. The findings showed that social expectations did not match with actual behaviors for women. Although interestingly, no significant difference between these two concepts was found for men.

The idea of social expectations (opinions of people around us, for example: parents, teachers, friends, co-workers, relatives, neighbors, and others) could be linked to the concept of a social clock. Berger (2004) referred to the social clock as settings of life stages and certain behaviors that were supposed to be performed during these stages, but the settings were not dictated biologically, rather they were made up by our society. An example of a social clock concept was cultural belief regarding when “middle age” should begin, in which every society would have a different age standard for it (Berger). Neugarten and Neugarten believed that a social clock is a timetable for different events and behaviors in one’s life (as cited in Berger, 2004, p. 462). A timetable is based on social norms that one society has, which help to define “best ages” for life events such as graduating from school, getting married, and buying a house (Berger).

Generations changed, and so did social expectations. In a study of three generations of women, Roscoe and Peterson (1989) found that there were differences in the perceptions for age-appropriate behaviors. The results showed that the greater a woman’s age, the less tolerance she

exposes to the violation of age norms. Also, the previous generation tended to influence the next generation in its values. In other words, adolescents tended to keep the social traditions of their parents than those of their grandparents. All three generations of women disagreed on what behavior was the most variant from what society has set as the socially acceptable age-norms. The study supported Neugarten and Neugarten's (as cited in Roscoe & Peterson, 1989) "theory of adult socialization." The theory states that people become more conservative in their beliefs about social norms and traditions as they grow older.

Hence, how do we know if social expectations actually exist? In a study concerned with age norms, Settersten (1998) conducted an interview with 319 adults and asked them about an age deadline for leaving home. The results showed that both men and women agreed that there was a mental age deadline for leaving home, and for both sexes the deadline varied from the ages of 18 and 25 years.

Researchers that previously analyzed how social expectations match actual behaviors found that a person's idea of the social timetable might be wrong. Ward and Rivadenyra (1999) found an interesting trend within their study's results about adolescents' sexual attitudes and behavior. They found that watching television provides adolescents with incorrect expectations about sexual behaviors. The misunderstanding was that women expected men to be more sexually active at the age of 18 than what men reported about their actual sexual experience at that age. Women estimated that 75% of men were sexually experienced while the actual rate was 66% (Ward & Rivadenyra).

The mismatch between social expectations and people's actual experiences was revealed in a study of differences in tobacco use among youth in India. The results demonstrated that,

sixth-grade students used significantly more tobacco than eighth-grade students despite the traditional expectation that a higher grade level in school was a reliable predictor in tobacco use (Reddy, Perry, Stigler, & Arora, 2006).

Assuming that social norms depend on the culture, gender and ethnic differences in the timing of life events should be considered (McCluer, 1998). McCluer's study was aimed toward finding out whether there were differences in the preferences of timetables for younger people of various backgrounds. The results stated that social expectations depended on gender and ethnicity and that it was natural for people to have a certain image of a normal lifestyle in their mind.

If people do not go along with these social expectations they might become frustrated and concerned with themselves. According to Neugarten (as cited in Smallen, 1995), every individual had doubts about whether he or she was on time for social clock because completing life tasks on time was essential to one's self-concept. Helson (as cited in Smallen, 1995) also believed that a person may feel a sense of failure and incompetency when believing that he or she is not developing on time with his or her peers.

The purpose of the present study was to determine whether there was a time difference between what society expects people to experience at a certain age and people's actual behaviors. Considering what has already been shown, many people have these beliefs regarding what they are supposed to experience, what knowledge they are supposed to have, and what skills they are supposed to master before a certain age.

This study was designed to test whether social expectations and people's actual experiences matched when looking at various life-course milestones such as the time of and

individual's first kiss, first sexual intercourse, graduation from high school, first year of college, moving out from parents' house, first marriage, first child, first paycheck, first cigarette, and first alcoholic beverage.

Because culture often influences people's values in a significant way, the researcher narrowed her results from participants that were raised in the United States of America. This was done in order to eliminate possible errors when making conclusions about the societal expectations and people's actual behaviors. The hypothesis was that people's actual experiences did not reflect social expectations for those behaviors.

The previous findings showed that societal expectations changed due to different factors such as the results of "generational differences in socialization" that bring new values, influences of mass media, gender and ethnic differences (Roscoe & Peterson, 1989, p. 167). Therefore, the present study may have helped to re-examine society's expectations that tend to change over time.

Method

Participants

The sample size consisted of 60 people, with 15 men and 44 women participating. The data from three people were discarded due to the nationality factor that was essential to the results of the study. The researcher was interested only in data of those who were from the United States of America. One participant did not disclose any demographic information, and it was impossible to tell his or her gender, nationality, age and college status, thus, the researcher discarded his or her data as well. The final sample size of American students was 56 people, with 13 men and 43 women participating. The most common participants consisted of 19-year-olds

and 20-year-olds, making up 17.9% and 16.1%, respectively. All of the participants were Lindenwood University students. Undergraduate students made up 76.7 % of all participants and graduate students made up 17.9%.

All the participants were recruited through e-mail service on a volunteer basis. To keep confidentiality, all the participants were informed to remain anonymous due to the sensitivity of some data. Identifying someone by his or her e-mail address was very difficult, because the researcher only used Lionmail Lindenwood addresses, which consisted of student's initials with numbers following the initials only.

Materials

The materials for the present study were two questionnaires (see Appendices A, B), the informed consent form (see Appendix C), and the feedback letter (see Appendix D) for each participant. The informed consent was used to inform the participant about the nature of the study, possible risks, and the participant's rights. The feedback letter explained why the study was important, thanked students for their participation, and provided them with the researcher's contact information. The first questionnaire form (see Appendix A) asked participants about their knowledge about social age expectations for certain behaviors (e.g., "According to social expectations, at what age are people expected to graduate from high school?"). Participants were offered an option to either write their answers in a free response format or to skip the question if they did not agree that there was a social expectation for such behavior. The second questionnaire (see Appendix B) had two sets of questions. The first set had questions about a participant's demographic characteristics (gender, country where the participant was raised, age, and his or her college status) while the second set had questions about participant's actual

experiences (e.g., “Have you tried drinking an alcoholic beverage?” If they did have that experience, they proceeded to the next part “At what age did you first try drinking an alcoholic beverage?”) The participants were invited to write their answers in a free response format as well.

Procedure

The researcher conducted her study using the process of on-line recruiting where she sent out a mass e-mail to all Lindenwood students inviting them to take part in her study. She accompanied her e-mail with a script (see Appendix E) explaining the nature of the study and also containing an informed consent form. Those who consented to participate read the informed consent form, opened the attachment with the two questionnaires, filled them out and sent them back to the researcher. After she received the completed questionnaires, the researcher sent a feedback letter to the participant. After gathering all the data, a set of descriptive and statistical analyses were conducted in which the two sets of questions was compared between each other. This was done in order to find out whether there was a timing difference between social expectations for certain behavior and people’s actual experiences.

Results

To test the hypothesis that social expectations for what people should have experienced by a certain age differed from people’s actual experiences, the researcher conducted a series of paired t-tests. The first set of paired t-tests examined the difference between male social expectations and their actual behaviors. The analyses revealed no significant differences between social expectations and actual behaviors (see Table 1). The second set of paired t-tests was conducted to see if there was a difference between female social expectations and their actual

behaviors. The analyses revealed several significant findings: first kiss behavior, $t(40) = 1.903$, $p < 0.05$, where the age of social expectation for the first kiss experience ($M = 14.77$, $SD = 2.15$) was higher than the age of actual experience ($M = 13.85$, $SD = 2.42$); graduation from high school, $t(42) = 2.864$, $p < 0.05$, where the age of social expectation ($M = 17.91$, $SD = 0.23$) was higher than the age of actual experience ($M = 17.63$, $SD = 0.578$); moving out from parents house, $t(42) = 5.872$, $p < 0.05$, where the age of social expectation ($M = 21.47$, $SD = 2.22$) was higher than the age of actual experience ($M = 18.90$, $SD = 2.30$); first marriage, $t(15) = 4.451$, $p < 0.05$, where the age of social expectation ($M = 24.78$, $SD = 2.11$) was higher than the age of actual experience ($M = 21.31$, $SD = 2.47$); first child, $t(14) = 3.662$, $p < 0.05$, where the age of social expectation ($M = 26.40$, $SD = 3.04$) was higher than the age of actual experience ($M = 22.33$, $SD = 4.45$); first paycheck, $t(34) = 7.852$, $p < 0.05$, where the age of social expectation ($M = 22.49$, $SD = 2.84$) was higher than the age of actual experience ($M = 18.06$, $SD = 3.34$); first smoking experience, $t(24) = 2.353$, $p < 0.05$, where the age of social expectation ($M = 15.44$, $SD = 1.85$) was higher than the age of actual experience ($M = 14.20$, $SD = 2.55$); first drinking experience, $t(37) = 2.091$, $p < 0.05$, where the age of social expectation ($M = 16.80$, $SD = 2.48$) was higher than the age of actual experience ($M = 15.47$, $SD = 3.07$) (see Table 2).

The difference between social expectation for men and women from men's point of view was found to be significant for the following behaviors: first marriage, $t(11) = 2.278$, $p < 0.05$, where women were expected to experience that at a younger age ($M = 24.58$, $SD = 2.97$) than men were ($M = 25.42$, $SD = 2.50$); and first child, $t(11) = 2.880$, $p < 0.05$, where women were expected to experience that at a younger age ($M = 26.17$, $SD = 2.53$) than men were ($M = 27.33$, $SD = 2.53$).

The difference between social expectations for men and women from women's point of view was found to be significant for the following behaviors: first kiss, $t(40) = -3.745, p < 0.05$, where men were expected to experience that at a younger age ($M = 14.08, SD = 1.82$) than women were ($M = 14.72, SD = 2.15$); first intercourse, $t(41) = -5.253, p < 0.05$, where men were expected to experience that at a younger age ($M = 15.57, SD = 4.55$) than women were ($M = 16.55, SD = 4.88$); first marriage, $t(40) = 5.721, p < .05$, where women were expected to experience that at a younger age ($M = 24.21, SD = 1.87$) than men were ($M = 25.80, SD = 2.45$); first child, $t(36) = 5.588, p < 0.05$, where women were expected to experience that at a younger age ($M = 25.88, SD = 2.54$) than men were ($M = 27.74, SD = 2.75$); smoking experience, $t(36) = -4.066, p < 0.05$, where men were expected to experience that at a younger age ($M = 14.35, SD = 3.03$) than women were ($M = 14.86, SD = 2.95$); and drinking experience, $t(40) = -4.176, p < 0.05$, where men were expected to experience that at a younger age ($M = 16.35, SD = 2.65$) than women were ($M = 16.81, SD = 2.42$).

Discussion

The purpose of the study was to find out whether there was a time difference between what society expects people to experience at a certain age and people's actual behaviors. The hypothesis was that people's actual experiences did not reflect social expectations for those behaviors.

The results of the study showed that there were gender differences in how social expectations and actual behavior reflected each other. Men showed no significant time differences between socially expected behavior and their actual experiences. Women's results showed time differences between the expected and actual experiences that were found to be

significant for several behaviors: first kiss, graduation from high school, moving out from their parents' house, first marriage, first child, first paycheck, first time smoking experience, and first time drinking experience. Women tended to perform these behaviors at a younger age than what society expected.

The fact that there were differences in men and women's results may have been due to the way men and women interpreted the questions. Men did not show any time discrepancies between socially expected and actual behaviors because those concepts looked the same to them. Women were used to thinking about socially expected behaviors since their gender often places limitations on their behaviors. One of the examples of socially expected behaviors for women was bearing children before a certain age because women's biological ability to conceive is time limited. Therefore, women showed more differences between expected and actual behaviors because they may have understood the differences between those concepts more.

Men and women showed different social expectations for each other. Men only reported that they expected women to get married and have a child earlier than men do. Women agreed that they were expected to get married and have a first child at a younger age than men; however, they also reported that men are expected to experience their first kiss, first intercourse, first time smoking and drinking behaviors at a younger age than women.

Actual men and women's behavior confirmed that women did get married at a younger age. However, it was impossible to say anything about first child experience because none of the male participants had any children of their own. The results also confirmed that men experienced their first kiss at a younger age. However, the results also demonstrated that women experienced

such behaviors as first intercourse, first time smoking, and first time drinking at a younger age than men did.

The gender differences that were found were somewhat predictable. McCluer's (1998) study demonstrated that social expectations depended on gender and ethnicity and that it was natural for people to have a certain image of a normal lifestyle in their mind. This study found that men had no time difference between socially expected and actual behaviors, and women tended to be on time with social expectations.

The present study's findings were consistent with the results of the study conducted by Settersten (1998) that had demonstrated that people's minds have a mental age deadline for leaving their homes, and the deadline was found to vary from the ages of 18 and 25 years for both sexes. The present study also found that people believed that there was a social expectation for such behavior, however, men's deadline for moving out from parents' house varied from 18 to 25 years and women's varied from 16 to 24 years.

The findings of this study were also consistent with Ward and Rivadenyra's (1999) findings that a misunderstanding existed between men and women's expectations for each other. Women estimated men to be more sexually experienced at the age of 18 than men said they actually were at this age. Women estimated 75% of men to be sexually experienced where the actual rate was 66% (Ward & Rivadenyra). In the present study, women estimated 81.6 % of men to be sexually skilled by the age of 18, where only 55.6% of them actually had had sexual experience. However, the fact that the researcher had a small number of male participants might have affected the results.

Also, the findings were somewhat similar to the results of the study of young people's differences in tobacco use in India. Sixth-grade students were found to be using significantly more tobacco than eighth-grade students despite traditional expectations that increased grade level in school was a reliable predictor in tobacco use (Reddy, et al., 2006). In the present study, 50% of all the participants who smoked (60.7%) had tried their first cigarette by the age of 14 years. Another 30.2% of the participants with smoking experience tried their first cigarette by the age of 16 years and the rest of the people had tried it by the age of 19 years. The findings were similar to the previous research in a way that the number of people who had tried smoking cigarettes by the age of 16 years was bigger than the number of people who had tried it between the ages of 16 to 19 years.

Other previous findings such as differences in the perceptions for age-appropriate behaviors between three generations of women were difficult to confirm. The sample size of women was not big enough to divide it among three generations. The ages of women varied from 18 to 54 years, where most of the female participants were 18 to 30 years old.

The limitations of this study included a small sample size, an unequal number of men and women participating in the study, and a small number of people who had gone through the behaviors asked in the surveys. Another limitation was that when conducting the analyses the researcher made an assumption that American culture was the same everywhere in the United States of America. Nevertheless, the United States of America consists of many mini-cultures that have different values and traditions that could have easily affected participants' answers about the social expectations and actual behaviors. Also, the researcher could have clarified her

definition of social expectations more. The given definition may have been interpreted in various ways.

Modifying the questions on the questionnaires may have helped to find relevant data relating to the culture of the participants. The questionnaires could also have included more demographic questions such as a question about ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic status, area where person grew up (rural or suburban), participant's major or profession, and others. It may have provided more information to conduct correlational and descriptive analyses of the data afterwards. Again, the definition of social expectation could have been written in a more narrowed way for an easier interpretation.

The results of the study could be useful for future research on social expectations. The findings could help to re-examine social expectations that tend to change over time. The original title of the study was "Are we expecting too much from ourselves?" After analyzing the data, however, the title should have been changed to "Are we expecting too little from ourselves?"

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Appendix A

Questionnaire 1

*** Some of the items are sensitive in nature but you are allowed to skip any question that you do not wish to answer. All your responses will be kept confidential.**

Please, answer the following questions **NOT** depending on **YOUR** actual experience, but depending on what you know about generally recognized *social rules and expectations (opinions of people around you: parents, teachers, friends, co-workers, relatives, neighbors, and so on)*.

1. According to social expectations, at what age are people **expected to** have their first kiss (in terms of expressing romantic affection and sexual desire) with a person of an opposite or the same sex? (Remember, it is not what you have experienced it is what our society expects people to follow)

Males: _____years

*Skip the question if you think that there is no

Females: _____years

social expectation for such behavior

2. According to social expectations, at what age are people **expected to** have their first sexual intercourse? (Remember, it is not what you have experienced it is what our society expects people to follow)

Males: _____years

*Skip the question if you think that there is no

Females: _____years

social expectation for such behavior

3. According to social expectations, at what age are people **expected to** graduate from high school? (Remember, it is not what you have experienced it is what our society expects people to follow)

Males: _____years

*Skip the question if you think that there is no social expectation for such behavior

Females: _____years

4. According to social expectations, at what age are people **expected to** attend their first year of college? (Remember, it is not what you have experienced it is what our society expects people to follow)

Males: _____years

*Skip the question if you think that there is no social expectation for such behavior

Females: _____years

5. According to social expectations, at what age are people **expected to** move out from their parents' house? (Remember, it is not what you have experienced it is what our society expects people to follow)

Males: _____years

*Skip the question if you think that there is no social expectation for such behavior

Females: _____years

6. According to social expectations, at what age are people **expected to** marry for the first time?

(Remember, it is not what you have experienced it is what our society expects people to follow)

Males: _____years

*Skip the question if you think that there is no

Females: _____years

social expectation for such behavior

7. According to social expectations, at what age are people **expected to** have their first child?

(Remember, it is not what you have experienced it is what our society expects people to follow)

Males: _____years

*Skip the question if you think that there is no

Females: _____years

social expectation for such behavior

8. According to social expectations, at what age are people **expected to** find their first job

(meaning having a paycheck and being financially independent)? (Remember, it is not what you have experienced it is what our society expects people to follow)

Males: _____years

*Skip the question if you think that there is no

Females: _____years

social expectation for such behavior

9. According to social expectations, at what age are people **expected to** have tried smoking cigarettes? (Remember, it is not what you have experienced it is what our society expects people to follow)

Males: _____years

*Skip the question if you think that there is no social expectation for such behavior

Females: _____years

10. According to social expectations, at what age are people **expected to** have tried drinking an alcohol beverage? (Remember, it is not what you have experienced it is what our society expects people to follow)

Males: _____years

*Skip the question if you think that there is no social expectation for such behavior

Females: _____years

Appendix B

Questionnaire 2

*** Some of the items are sensitive in nature but you are allowed to skip any question that you do not wish to answer. All your responses will be kept confidential.**

Please, answer the following questions based on **YOUR** personal experience. Honesty is greatly appreciated.

1. What is your gender? Male _____ Female_____

2. How old are you? _____years

3. What country were you raised in (country that you spent the most time in your life in while growing up)? _____

4. What year are you in school (Freshman, sophomore, junior, senior)? Circle one.

Other_____

5. Have you kissed (in terms of expressing romantic affection and sexual desire) with a person of an opposite or the same sex? (This is your actual experience)

Yes, I have _____ _____ No, I haven't

At what age did you kiss for the first time? _____years

6. Have you had sexual intercourse with a person of an opposite or the same sex? (This is your actual experience)

Yes, I have _____ No, I haven't

At what age did you have sexual intercourse for the first time? _____years

7. Have you graduated from high school? (This is your actual experience)

Yes, I have _____ No, I haven't

At what age did you graduate from high school? _____years

8. Have you attended your first year of college? (This is your actual experience)

Yes, I have _____ No, I haven't

At what age did attend your first year of college? _____years

9. Have you moved out from your parents' house? (This is your actual experience)

Yes, I have _____ No, I haven't

At what age did you move out from your parents house? _____years

10. Have you married? (This is your actual experience)

Yes, I have _____ No, I haven't

At what age did you marry for the first time _____years

11. Have you had a child? (This is your actual experience)

Yes, I have _____ No, I haven't

At what age did you have your first child? _____years

12. Have you had a job? (meaning having a paycheck and being financially independent)? (This is your actual experience)

Yes, I have _____ No, I haven't

At what age did you have your first job? _____years

13. Have you tried smoking cigarettes? (This is your actual experience)

Yes, I have _____ No, I haven't

At what age did you first tried smoking cigarettes? _____years

14. Have you tried drinking an alcohol beverage? (This is your actual experience)

Yes, I have _____ No, I haven't

At what age did you first try drinking an alcohol beverage? _____years

Thank You!!!

Appendix C

Informed Consent Form

I, _____ (print name), understand that I will be taking part in a research project that requires me to complete 2 short questionnaires. First questionnaire has questions about age-related social expectations, and the second questionnaire has questions about my actual behavior. I understand that some of the items are sensitive in nature but I am allowed to skip any question that I do not wish to answer. I understand that I should be able to complete this project within 15 minutes. I am aware that my participation in this study is strictly voluntary and that I may choose to withdraw from the study at any time without any penalty or prejudice. I should not incur any penalty or prejudice because I cannot complete the study. I understand that the information obtained from my responses will be analyzed only as part of aggregate data and that all identifying information will be absent from the data in order to ensure anonymity. I am also aware that my responses will be kept confidential and that data obtained from this study will only be available for research and educational purposes. I understand that any questions I may have regarding this study shall be answered by the researcher(s) involved to my satisfaction. Finally, I verify that I am at least 18 years of age and am legally able to give consent or that I am under the age of 18 but have on file with the HSP office, a completed parental consent form that allows me to give consent as a minor.

_____ Date: _____

(Signature of participant)

_____ Date: _____

(Signature of researcher obtaining consent)

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Appendix D

Feedback Letter

Thank you for participating in my study. The questionnaires were used in order to find out what the social expectations for age-appropriate behavior are and to see how they are reflecting people's actual experiences. All of us have these beliefs regarding what we are supposed to experience, what knowledge we are supposed to have and what skills we are supposed to master before a certain age. If we do not go along with these ideals of social expectations we become frustrated and concerned with ourselves thinking that there must be something wrong with us. The study will show if there is indeed a difference between age-related social expectations and people's actual experiences.

Please note that we are not interested in your individual results; rather, we are only interested in the results of a large group of people, of which you are now a part of. No identifying information about you will be associated with any of the findings. If you have any questions or concerns regarding any portion of this study, please do not hesitate to bring them up now or in the future. Our contact information is found at the bottom of this letter. If you are interested in obtaining a summary of the findings of this study at a later date, please contact us and we will make it available to you at the completion of this project.

Thank you again for your valuable contribution to this study.

Sincerely,

Principal Investigators:

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Supervisor:

Dr. Michiko Nohara-LeClair 636-949-4371 (mnohara-leclair@lindenwood.edu)

Appendix E

Recruiting Participants through Mass E-mail Script.

Hello, my name is Irina Dolgikh and I am a senior student in the department of Psychology. I am currently working on the study for my Advanced Research Methods class that I am taking with Professor M. Nohara-LeClair. I am studying the timing difference between social expectations and people's actual experiences. I want to see if social expectations for what people should have experienced by a certain age differ from people's actual experiences.

If you volunteer to participate in the study you will be asked to fill out two questionnaires. The first one has questions about your known social expectations and the second one has personal questions about your actual experiences. Completing the survey should take approximately 10 minutes of your time. I am not interested in your individual data; therefore, please do not write your names on the answer sheets in order to keep the information absolutely anonymous. After completing the questionnaire you will be asked to send back completed answer sheets to the researcher.

Unfortunately, you will not receive any reward for participating in this study, but your participation will be greatly appreciated by Lindenwood Psychology Department, and especially by me who needs to conduct this study in order to successfully graduate.

If you are interested to be a volunteer for this study, please, open the attachment; fill out the questionnaires, and then them back to me. Once I get your questionnaires I will send you a feedback letter. Thank You.

Proceed if you agree with following:

I understand that I will be taking part in a research project that requires me to complete 2 short questionnaires. First questionnaire has questions about age-related social expectations, and the second questionnaire has questions about my actual behavior. I understand that some of the items are sensitive in nature but I am allowed to skip any question that I do not wish to answer. I understand that I should be able to complete this project within 10 minutes. I am aware that my participation in this study is strictly voluntary and that I may choose to withdraw from the study at any time without any penalty or prejudice. I should not incur any penalty or prejudice because I cannot complete the study. I understand that the information obtained from my responses will be analyzed only as part of aggregate data and that all identifying information will be absent from the data in order to ensure anonymity. I am also aware that my responses will be kept confidential and that data obtained from this study will only be available for research and educational purposes. I understand that any questions I may have regarding this study shall be answered by the researcher involved to my satisfaction. Finally, I verify that I am at least 18 years of age and am legally able to give consent.

Tables

Table 1. Mean and standard deviation scores of expected and actual ages for men

Behavior	Expected	Actual Age	Significance
First Kiss	14 (1.84)	13.82 (4.21)	no
First Intercourse	15.95 (4.07)	18.44 (4.16)	no
High School Graduation	-----	18.00 (0.41)	no
First Year of College	18.35 (0.54)	18.69 (1.18)	no
Moving out from Parents House	21.19 (2.27)	19.86 (2.41)	no
First Marriage	25.71 (2.44)	27.00 (4.24)	no
First Paycheck	21.92 (2.91)	18.38 (3.15)	no
First Smoking	14.72 (2.89)	14.71 (2.50)	no
First Child	27.64 (2.68)	-----	no
First Drinking	16.31 (2.58)	15.64 (2.73)	no

*----- - No results

Tables

Table 2. Mean and standard deviation scores of expected and actual ages for women

Behavior	Expected Age	Actual Age	Significance
First Kiss	14.56 (2.18)	13.86 (2.40)	yes
First Intercourse	16.71 (4.31)	16.61 (1.88)	no
High School Graduation	-----	17.63 (0.58)	yes
First Year of College	18.31 (0.53)	19.16 (3.52)	no
Moving out from Parents House	21.60 (2.27)	18.90 (2.30)	yes
First Marriage	24.30 (2.14)	21.31 (2.47)	yes
First Paycheck	22.21 (2.84)	18.06 (3.34)	yes
First Smoking	15.16 (2.74)	14.41 (2.58)	yes
First Child	25.94 (2.56)	22.31 (4.30)	yes
First Drinking	16.73 (2.33)	15.44 (3.03)	yes

*----- No results