

**Statistical Analysis of Client Data from the Keeping Families and Inmates Together in Harmony (Keeping Faith) Program**

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## **Introduction and Methodology**

On December 20, 2010, Midwest Evaluation and Research was hired by the RIDGE Project to conduct an independent analysis of available evaluation data for the Keeping Families and Inmates Together in Harmony (Keeping Faith) Program.

Data and documentation provided for analysis included:

- Copies of program pretest and posttest surveys administered to participants.
- An Excel spreadsheet containing data from 2,564 pretest and 1,232 posttest completed surveys.
- A document containing open-ended “qualitative” comments from participants collected at posttest.

All quantitative data was analyzed using standard statistical software and procedures (SPSS 11.5). Qualitative data was analyzed using widely accepted processes of coding and theme analysis. All analyses were conducted by a Ph.D.-level psychologist with over 15 years’ experience in program evaluation and data analysis.

## Sample Demographics

### Pretest Data Set

The pretest data set contained valid entries for 1,817 men and 745 women. Two participants had missing data for gender and were excluded from the demographic analyses.

Male (Inmate) Pretest Demographics: As indicated in Table 1, most participants self-reported that their race was Black/African American (66%), followed by White (26.1%) and Hispanic (5.8%). Twenty-eight participants (1.6%) reported more than one race, and the remaining participants (0.5%) reported being of some other race, including Asian or Indian. The ages of these participants ranged from 18 to 66, with an average age of about 33 years. When reporting their relationship status (Table 2), the largest group of respondents (37.5%) indicated that they were single and had never been married; 26.7% indicated they had been living together with a significant other; and an additional 25.2% indicated that they were married. The remaining participants (10.6%) reported they were separated, divorced, or widowed.

**Table 1: RACE (pretest males)**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Black	1137	62.6	66.0	66.0
	White	449	24.7	26.1	92.0
	Hispanic	100	5.5	5.8	97.9
	2 or more races	28	1.5	1.6	99.5
	Other	9	.5	.5	100.0
	Total	1723	94.8	100.0	
Missing	System	94	5.2		
Total		1817	100.0		

**Table 2: Relationship Status (pretest males)**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Never married	598	32.9	37.5	37.5
	Married	402	22.1	25.2	62.8
	Living together	425	23.4	26.7	89.5
	Divorced	110	6.1	6.9	96.4
	Widowed	6	.3	.4	96.7
	Separated	52	2.9	3.3	100.0
	Total	1593	87.7	100.0	
Missing	System	224	12.3		
Total		1817	100.0		

**Female (Spouse) Pretest Demographics:** The pretest demographics of the participating females were not as consistently collected as those of male participants. However, available data indicates that the demographics of female participants closely resembled those of their incarcerated partners. Most female participants self-reported that their race was Black/African American (59%), followed by White (32%) and Hispanic (5.9%), while seven participants (3.2%) reported being of more than one race (Table 3). Interestingly, female participants were on average 4 years older (37 years old) than their partners, with a range in age from 18 to 63 years. Of females who reported their relationship status (Table 4), the largest group was those who were married (43.7%), followed by those who indicated that they had been living together with their partner (29%). Only 20.8% indicated that they were single or never married. This likely indicates that female partners who are willing to put in the effort and overcome the barriers to participation are more likely to be those who are in a long-term, committed relationship, such as being married.

**Table 3: RACE (pretest females)**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Black	131	17.6	59.0	59.0
	White	71	9.5	32.0	91.0
	Hispanic	13	1.7	5.9	96.8
	2 or more races	7	.9	3.2	100.0
	Total	222	29.8	100.0	
Missing	System	523	70.2		
Total		745	100.0		

**Table 4: Relationship Status (pretest females)**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Never married	38	5.1	20.8	20.8
	Married	80	10.7	43.7	64.5
	Living together	53	7.1	29.0	93.4
	Divorced	12	1.6	6.6	100.0
	Total	183	24.6	100.0	
Missing	System	562	75.4		
Total		745	100.0		

### Posttest Data Set

The posttest data set contained valid entries for 884 men and 347 women. One participant had missing data for gender and was excluded from the demographic analyses. The importance of examining the posttest data set is to determine if any bias in the results may have been introduced by a retention pattern. That is to say, if married couples or older adults were over-represented in the posttest data set, then program findings would not necessarily be representative of the groups not represented in the final data set (i.e., unmarried or younger). In such cases, findings should be interpreted cautiously.

Male (Inmate) Posttest Demographics: As indicated in Table 5, racial demographics were nearly identical between pretest and posttest, with most participants self-reporting that their race was Black/African American (65.2%), followed by White (26.7%) and Hispanic (5.5%). The posttest sample was slightly older, with an average age of 34.8 years but with the same overall range of between 18 to 66 years of age. When reporting their relationship status (Table 6), the largest group of respondents again consisted of those who were single or never married (35.6%), while 25.8% indicated they had been living together with a significant other and an additional 34.9% indicated that they were married. The remaining participants (3.7%) reported they were separated or widowed. These results are very similar to those in the pretest data set, with some increases in the percentage of married participants and corresponding decreases in those not in a committed relationship at the time. Such changes are not unexpected given the purpose and nature of the program.

**Table 5: RACE (posttest males)**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Black	542	61.3	65.2	65.2
	White	222	25.1	26.7	91.9
	Hispanic	46	5.2	5.5	97.5
	2 or more races	15	1.7	1.8	99.3
	Other	6	.7	.7	100.0
	Total		831	94.0	100.0
Missing	System	53	6.0		
Total		884	100.0		

Female (Spouse) Posttest Demographics: The posttest demographics of the participating females were nearly identical to their pretest demographics. Most female participants self-reported that their race was Black/African American (57.9%), followed by White (32.5%) and Hispanic (7%). Female participants were still an average of 37.5 years old, with a range from 19 to 55 years of age. Of females who reported their relationship status, the largest group was still composed of those who were married (50%), followed by those who indicated that they had been living together with their partner (31.9%). Only 18.1 % indicated they were single or never married.

**Table 6: Relationship Status (posttest males)**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Never married	269	30.4	35.6	35.6
	Married	264	29.9	34.9	70.5
	Living together	195	22.1	25.8	96.3
	Widowed	3	.3	.4	96.7
	Separated	25	2.8	3.3	100.0
	Total	756	85.5	100.0	
Missing	System	128	14.5		
Total		884	100.0		

Overall, the consistency of demographic data from pretest to posttest is sufficiently similar for reliable evaluation purposes. Therefore, there should not be concern that retention factors have introduced any significant bias in the results.

## Pretest-Posttest Comparisons

The surveys given to the participants at pretest and posttest assess various relationship qualities using a self-report format where respondents can choose from “Yes,” “No,” “Maybe,” or “Don’t Know” as potential response categories. “Yes” / “No” responses are “nominal” in nature and most appropriately analyzed using descriptive statistics and cross-tabulations. The introduction of a “Maybe” response categorization creates a rudimentary three-point “ordinal” scale, and as such could also be analyzed using a “non-parametric” test such as the “Mann Whitney U Test.” Analyses utilizing both mechanisms were conducted by the analysis team.

The non-parametric Mann Whitney U Test produced “significant” results on total sample (male and female) pre-post comparisons on all questions examined. In large sample statistical analyses it is not uncommon for small differences between pretest and posttest comparisons to produce statistically significant results. However, small group differences, while “significant,” may not always be “meaningful.” That is to say, very small changes at a group level may have a limited real impact on the life of any one individual.

In order to demonstrate changes that are not only “significant” but also “meaningful,” and given the questionable validity of using a non-parametric test like the Mann Whitney on this sample, the more conservative analysis of the data using cross-tabulation and chi-square appropriate for nominal data is reported below. Further, to identify where participant level changes are most meaningful, this team has conducted separate analyses on male and female respondents. This has had the effect of reducing group sizes for analyses and ensuring that large changes in data for males do not overshadow smaller changes in data for females (creating a false positive for females). Both changes have created a more conservative data analysis process, ensuring that reported significant changes which were detected are both “significant” and “meaningful.”

The results from a separate analysis of each question/statement on the pretest and posttest surveys are presented below.



Question 1: My relationship with my partner is more important to me than almost anything else.

While responses of “Yes” to this question started at relatively high pretest levels (see Figure 1) for both males and females, the number of males who said “Yes” to this question increased 6.6% and the number of females who said “Yes” increased 6.5%. Both increases were statistically significant (see Table 7).

Figure 1

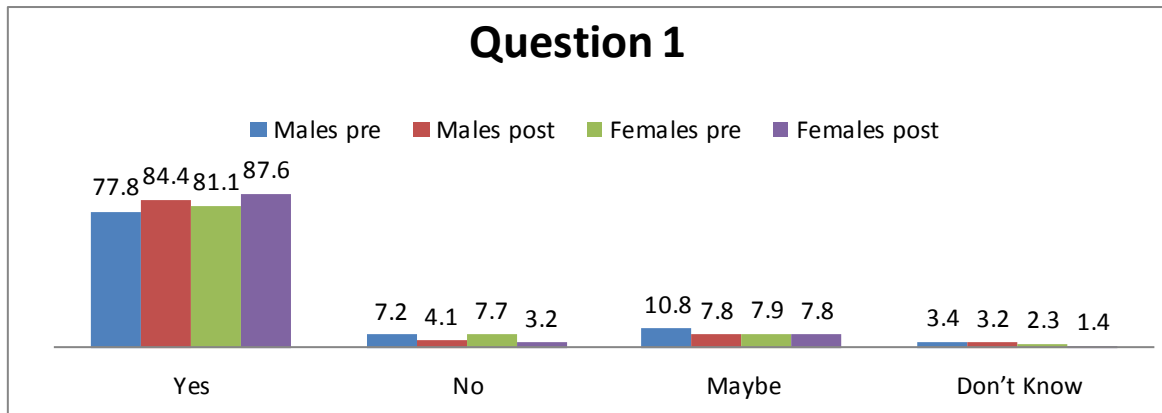


Table 7: Chi-Square Tests (Question 1)

GENDER		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Male	Pearson Chi-Square	18.909(a)	4	.001
	Likelihood Ratio	19.858	4	.001
	Linear-by-Linear Association	7.973	1	.005
	N of Valid Cases	2701		
Female	Pearson Chi-Square	13.412(b)	4	.009
	Likelihood Ratio	16.833	4	.002
	Linear-by-Linear Association	1.854	1	.173
	N of Valid Cases	1092		

Question 2: I feel good about our chances to make this relationship work for a lifetime.

Results for both males and females saw increases in the percentage who answered “Yes” to this question (see Figure 2). The number of males who said “Yes” to this question increased 4.5%, which was significant at the .05% level. The number of females who said “Yes” increased 4.2%, which was not statistically significant (see Table 8).

Figure 2

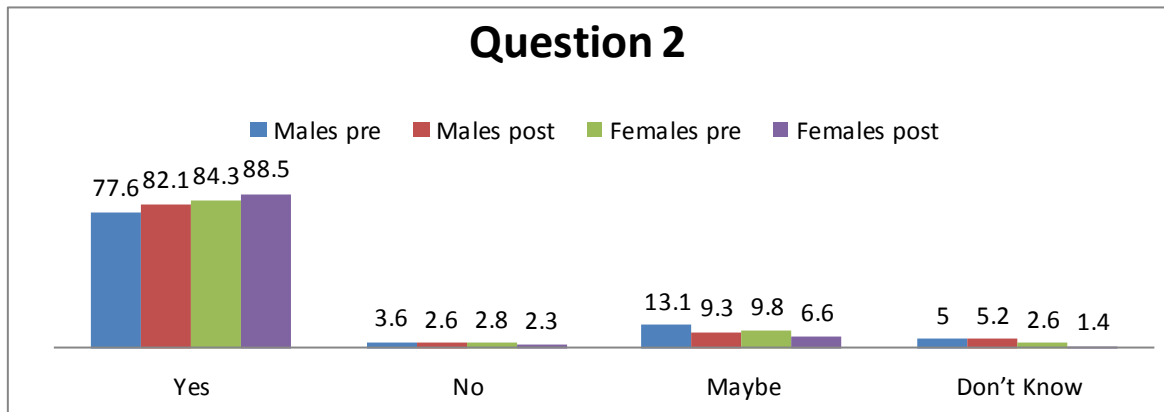


Table 8: Chi-Square Tests (Question 2)

GENDER		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Male	Pearson Chi-Square	10.912(a)	4	.028
	Likelihood Ratio	11.304	4	.023
	Linear-by-Linear Association	4.778	1	.029
	N of Valid Cases	2701		
Female	Pearson Chi-Square	5.975(b)	4	.201
	Likelihood Ratio	6.141	4	.189
	Linear-by-Linear Association	5.353	1	.021
	N of Valid Cases	1092		

Question 3: I interrupt my partner when we are arguing.

Results for both males and females saw significant decreases in the percentage who answered “Yes” to this question (see Figure 3). The number of males who said “Yes” to this question decreased 13% and the number of females who answered “Yes” decreased 16.6%, both of which were statistically significant (see Table 9).

Figure 3

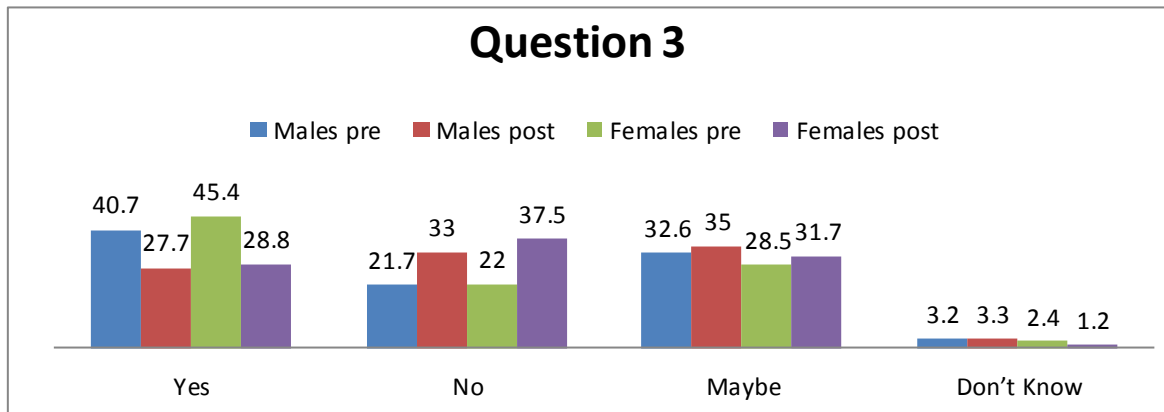


Table 9: Chi-Square Tests (Question 3)

GENDER		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Male	Pearson Chi-Square	60.618(a)	4	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	60.849	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	18.830	1	.000
	N of Valid Cases	2701		
Female	Pearson Chi-Square	41.131(b)	4	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	41.321	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	10.367	1	.001
	N of Valid Cases	1092		

Question 4: When discussing issues, I show my partner that I am listening by repeating back what I heard.

The percentages of both males and females who answered “Yes” to this question saw significant increases (see Figure 4). The number of males who said “Yes” to this question increased 21.3% and the number of females increased 20.8%, both of which were statistically significant (see Table 10).

Figure 4

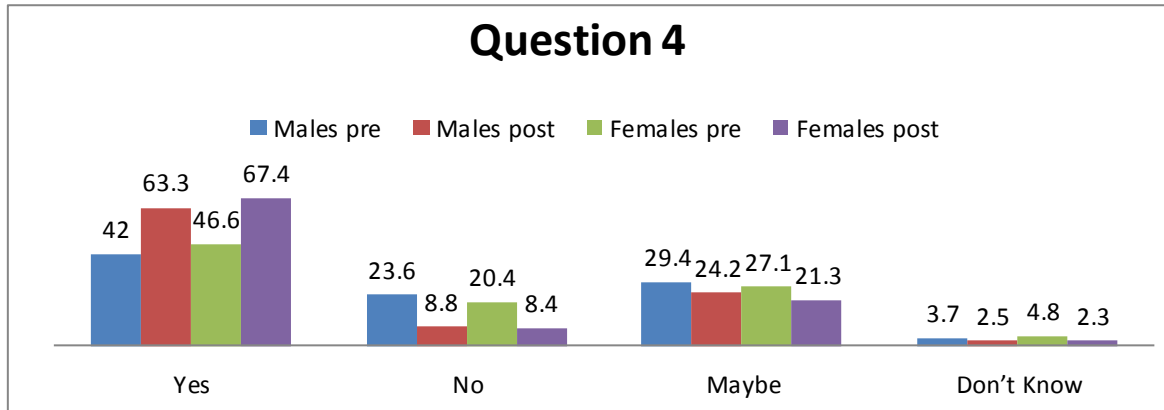


Table 10: Chi-Square Tests (Question 4)

GENDER		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Male	Pearson Chi-Square	132.498(a)	4	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	140.230	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	53.164	1	.000
	N of Valid Cases	2701		
Female	Pearson Chi-Square	47.609(b)	4	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	50.116	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	23.836	1	.000
	N of Valid Cases	1092		

Question 5: It is more important for me to understand my partner than for me to be right.

Results for both males and females showed significant increases in the percentage who answered “Yes” to this question (see Figure 5). The number of males who said “Yes” to this question increased 15.8% and the number of females who said “Yes” increased 14.7%, both of which were statistically significant (see Table 11).

Figure 5

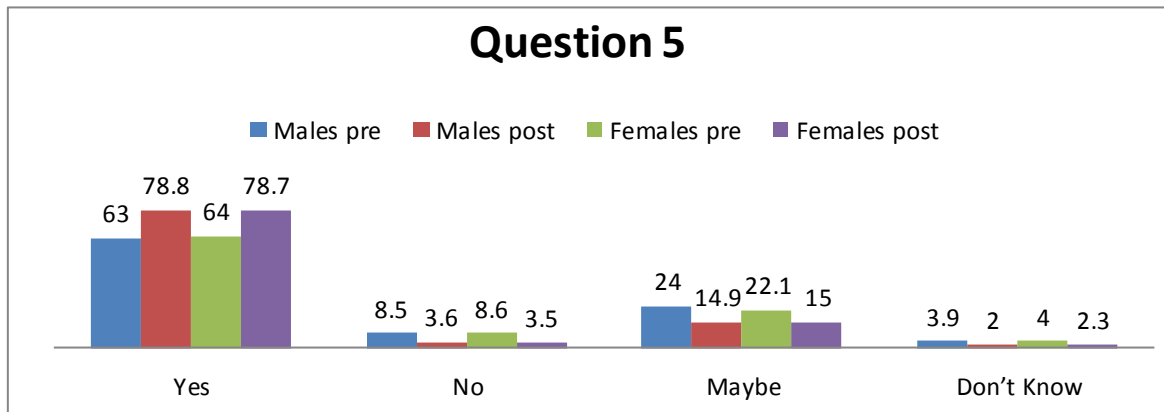


Table 11: Chi-Square Tests (Question 5)

GENDER		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Male	Pearson Chi-Square	71.548(a)	4	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	75.426	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	54.733	1	.000
	N of Valid Cases	2701		
Female	Pearson Chi-Square	25.420(b)	4	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	27.026	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	15.598	1	.000
	N of Valid Cases	1092		

Question 6: When our talks begin to get out of hand, we agree to stop and talk later.

Results for both males and females showed significant increases in the percentage who answered “Yes” to this question (see Figure 6). The number of males who said “Yes” to this question increased 18.1% and the number of females who said “Yes” increased 18.9%, both of which were statistically significant (see Table 12).

Figure 6

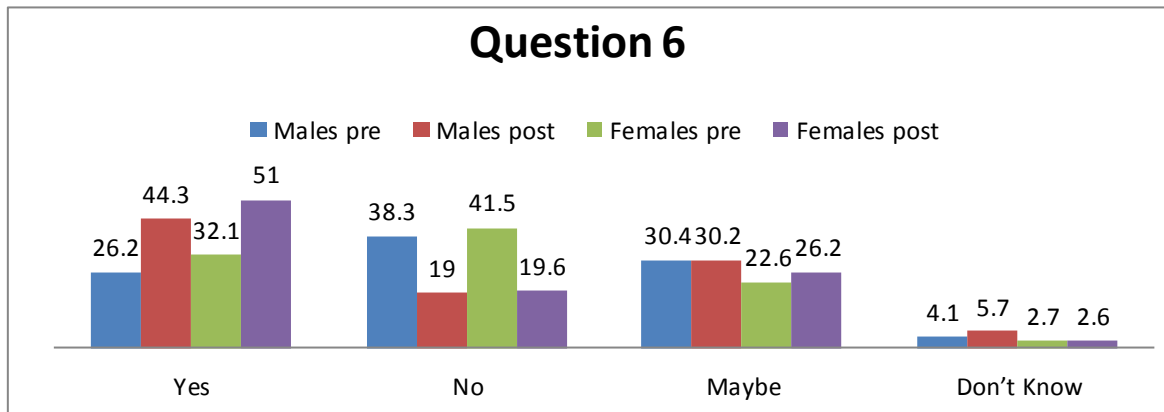


Table 12: Chi-Square Tests (Question 6)

GENDER		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Male	Pearson Chi-Square	133.340(a)	4	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	136.870	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	15.950	1	.000
	N of Valid Cases	2701		
Female	Pearson Chi-Square	57.384(b)	4	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	59.937	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	6.314	1	.012
	N of Valid Cases	1092		

Question 7: Before trying to solve an important problem, we try to talk through the issues that are involved so that we really understand each other.

Results for both males and females reflected significant increases in the percentage who answered “Yes” to this question (see Figure 7). The number of males who said “Yes” to this question increased 17% and the number of females who said “Yes” increased 16.6%, both of which were statistically significant (see Table 13).

Figure 7

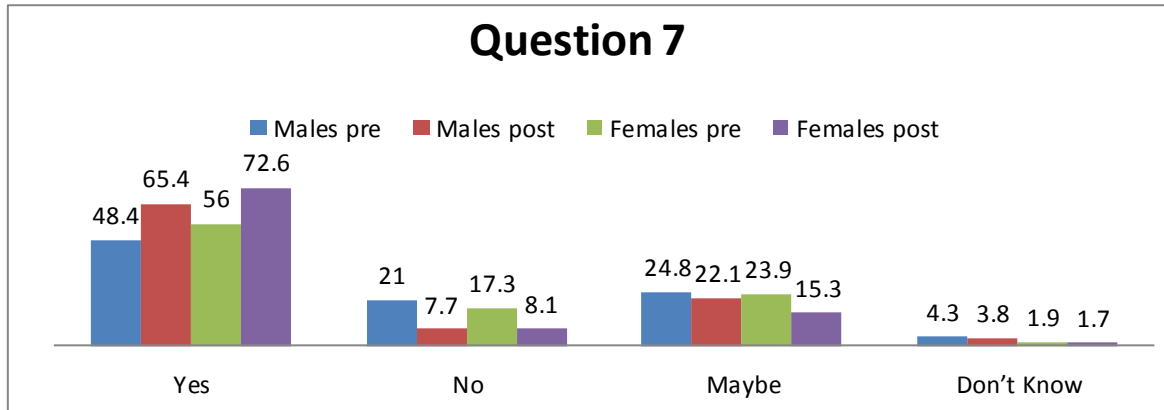


Table 13: Chi-Square Tests (Question 7)

GENDER		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Male	Pearson Chi-Square	98.188(a)	4	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	106.452	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	24.394	1	.000
	N of Valid Cases	2701		
Female	Pearson Chi-Square	36.347(b)	4	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	37.847	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	23.715	1	.000
	N of Valid Cases	1092		

Question 8: We have arguments that erupt over minor events.

Results for both males and females saw significant decreases in the percentage who answered “Yes” to this question (see Figure 8). The number of males who said “Yes” to this question decreased 14.7% and the number of females who said “Yes” decreased 14.6%, both of which were statistically significant (see Table 14).

Figure 8

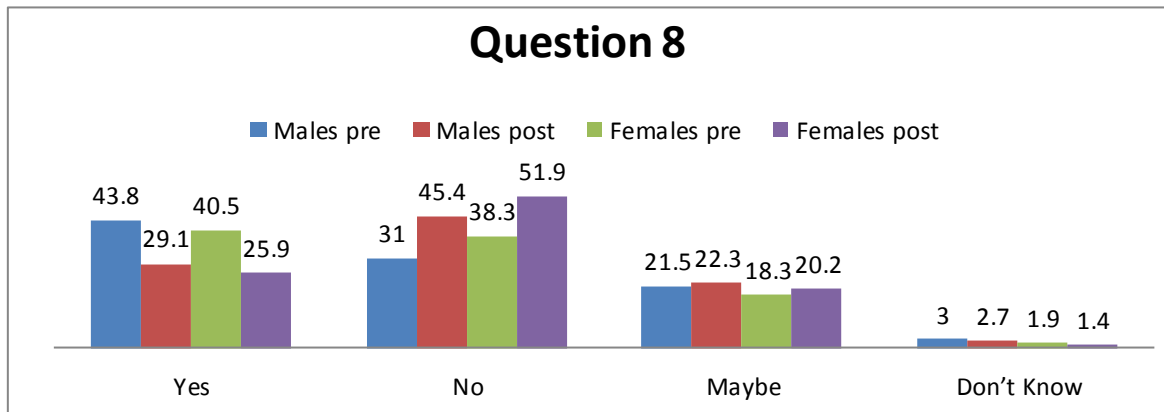


Table 14: Chi-Square Tests (Question 8)

GENDER		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Male	Pearson Chi-Square	67.907(a)	4	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	68.331	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	18.502	1	.000
	N of Valid Cases	2701		
Female	Pearson Chi-Square	25.731(b)	4	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	26.300	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	10.388	1	.001
	N of Valid Cases	1092		



Question 9: It is hard to discuss issues without getting into a heated argument.

Results for both males and females saw significant decreases in the percentage who answered “Yes” to this question (see Figure 9). The number of males who said “Yes” to this question decreased 10.5% and the number of females who said “Yes” decreased 8.7%, both of which were statistically significant (see Table 15).

Figure 9

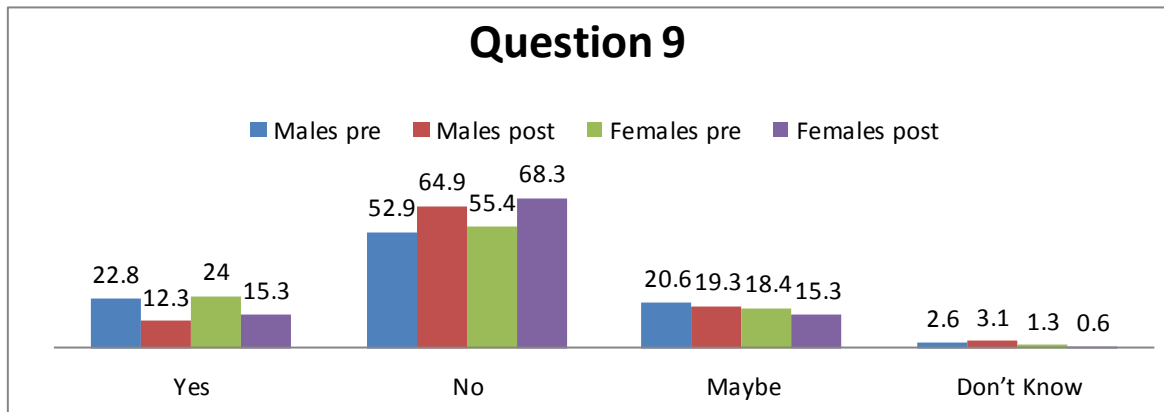
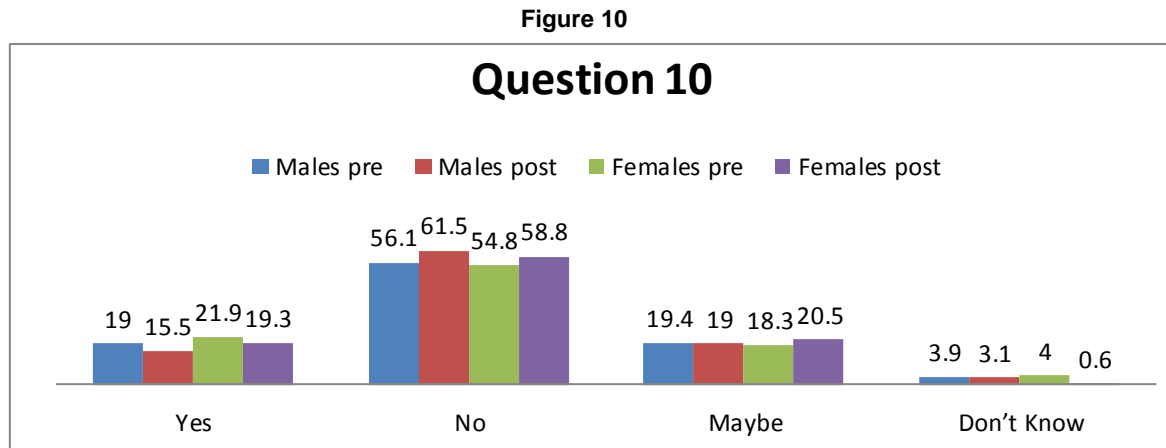


Table 15: Chi-Square Tests (Question 9)

GENDER		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Male	Pearson Chi-Square	52.946(a)	4	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	55.933	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	14.417	1	.000
	N of Valid Cases	2701		
Female	Pearson Chi-Square	17.872(b)	4	.001
	Likelihood Ratio	18.438	4	.001
	Linear-by-Linear Association	1.074	1	.300
	N of Valid Cases	1092		

Question 10: I clam up when we disagree.

Results for both males and females showed increases in the percentage who answered “No” to this question (see Figure 10). The number of males who said “No” to this question increased 5.4%, which was significant at the .05% level. The number of females who said “No” to this question increased 4%, which was also statistically significant at the .05% level (see Table 16).



**Table 16: Chi-Square Tests (Question 10)**

GENDER		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Males	Pearson Chi-Square	10.090(a)	4	.039
	Likelihood Ratio	10.323	4	.035
	Linear-by-Linear Association	.823	1	.364
	N of Valid Cases	2701		
Females	Pearson Chi-Square	11.756(b)	4	.019
	Likelihood Ratio	14.704	4	.005
	Linear-by-Linear Association	.123	1	.725
	N of Valid Cases	1092		

Question 11: I feel we can talk calmly about anything.

Results for both males and females showed significant increases in the percentage who answered “Yes” to this question (see Figure 11). The number of males who said “Yes” to this question increased 18% and the number of females who responded “Yes” increased 17.1%, both of which were statistically significant (see Table 17).

Figure 11

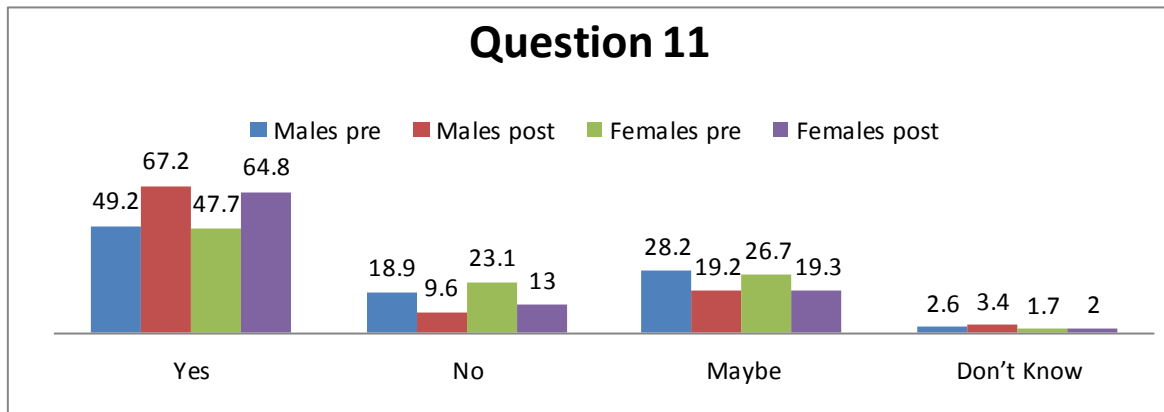


Table 17: Chi-Square Tests (Question 11)

GENDER		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Male	Pearson Chi-Square	88.905(a)	4	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	91.779	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	40.274	1	.000
	N of Valid Cases	2701		
Female	Pearson Chi-Square	30.802(b)	4	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	31.567	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	17.066	1	.000
	N of Valid Cases	1092		

Question 12: I feel like I can really open up to my partner.

Results for both males and females revealed significant increases in the percentage who answered “Yes” to this question (see Figure 12). The number of males who said “Yes” to this question increased 8.9% and the number of females who said “Yes” increased 8.8%, both of which were statistically significant (see Table 18).

Figure 12

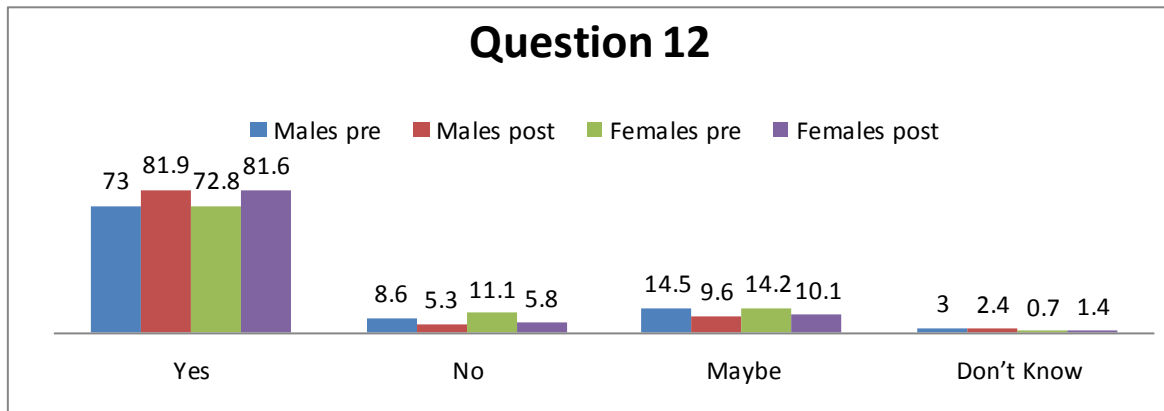


Table 18: Chi-Square Tests (Question 12)

GENDER		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Male	Pearson Chi-Square	26.463(a)	4	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	27.518	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	19.138	1	.000
	N of Valid Cases	2701		
Female	Pearson Chi-Square	14.369(b)	4	.006
	Likelihood Ratio	15.053	4	.005
	Linear-by-Linear Association	5.298	1	.021
	N of Valid Cases	1092		

Question 13: I work hard in my relationship to be the best partner I can be.

Results for both males and females showed significant increases in the percentage who answered “Yes” to this question (see Figure 13). The number of males who said “Yes” increased 15.4% and the number of females who said “Yes” to this question increased 8.2%, both of which were statistically significant (see Table 19).

Figure 13

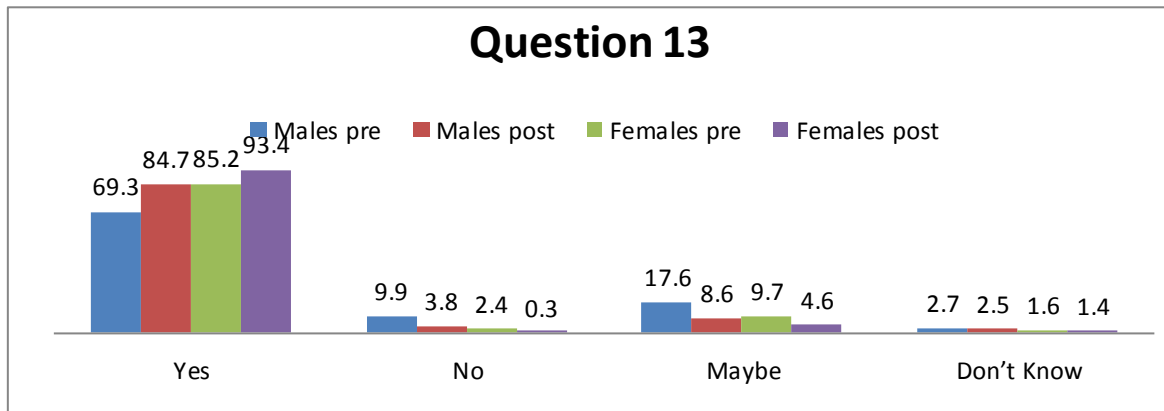


Table 19: Chi-Square Tests (Question 13)

GENDER		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Male	Pearson Chi-Square	79.810(a)	4	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	86.309	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	49.536	1	.000
	N of Valid Cases	2701		
Female	Pearson Chi-Square	17.265(b)	4	.002
	Likelihood Ratio	20.466	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	7.670	1	.006
	N of Valid Cases	1092		

Question 14: We have fun together.

While starting at high levels, results for both males and females showed increases in the percentage who answered “Yes” to this question (see Figure 14). The number of males who said “Yes” to this question increased 3%, which was just significant at the .05% level. The number of females who said “Yes” increased 2%, which was not statistically significant (see Table 20).

Figure 14

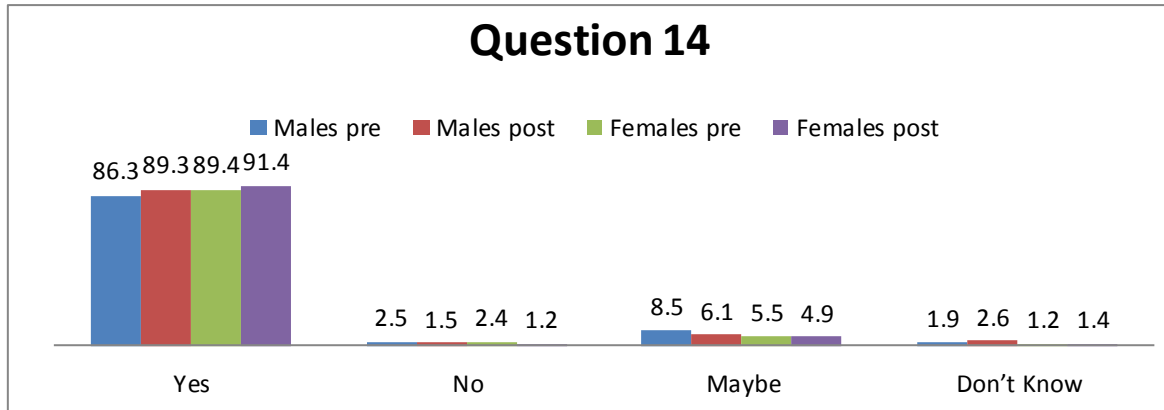


Table 20: Chi-Square Tests (Question 14)

GENDER		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Male	Pearson Chi-Square	9.988(a)	4	.041
	Likelihood Ratio	10.351	4	.035
	Linear-by-Linear Association	1.311	1	.252
	N of Valid Cases	2701		
Female	Pearson Chi-Square	2.420(b)	4	.659
	Likelihood Ratio	2.625	4	.622
	Linear-by-Linear Association	.147	1	.702
	N of Valid Cases	1092		

Question 15: My partner is my best friend.

While starting at high levels, both males and females saw increases in the percentage who answered “Yes” to this question (see Figure 15). The number of males who said “Yes” to this question increased 5.6%, which was significant at the .05% level. The number of females who answered “Yes” increased 4.9%, which was not statistically significant (see Table 21).

Figure 15

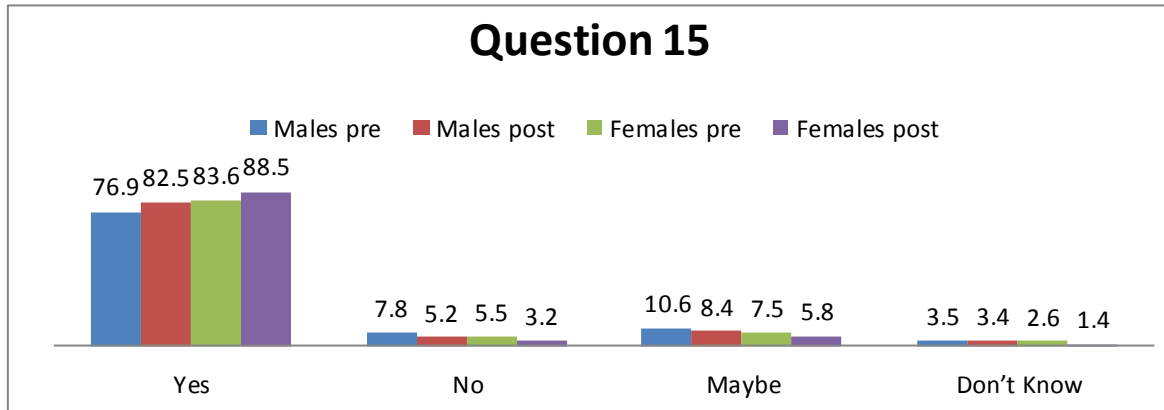


Table 21: Chi-Square Tests (Question 15)

GENDER		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Male	Pearson Chi-Square	13.224(a)	4	.010
	Likelihood Ratio	13.806	4	.008
	Linear-by-Linear Association	4.190	1	.041
	N of Valid Cases	2701		
Female	Pearson Chi-Square	6.043(b)	4	.196
	Likelihood Ratio	6.376	4	.173
	Linear-by-Linear Association	4.521	1	.033
	N of Valid Cases	1092		

Question 16: We know people who care about us and our relationship.

The percentages of both males and females who answered “Yes” to this question saw significant increases (see Figure 16). The number of males who said “Yes” to this question increased 6.1% and the number of females who said “Yes” increased 9.2%, both of which were statistically significant (see Table 22).

Figure 16

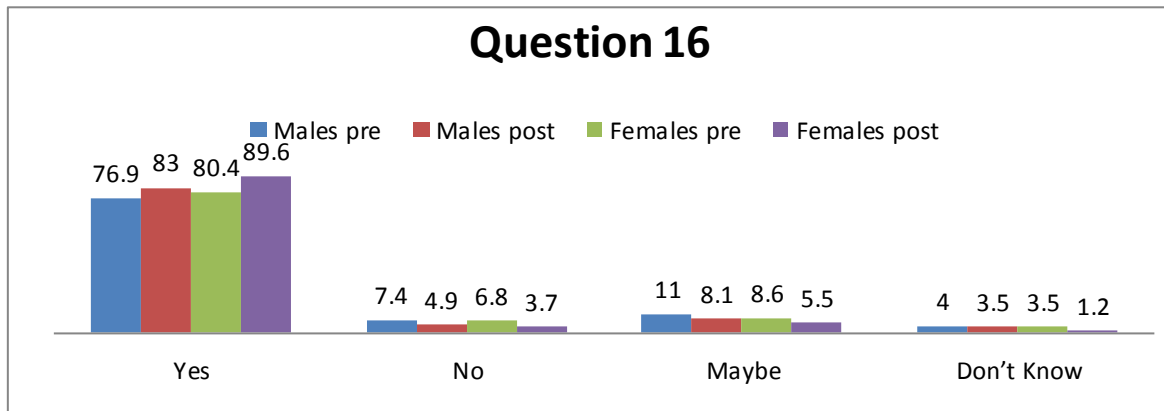


Table 22: Chi-Square Tests (Question 16)

GENDER		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Male	Pearson Chi-Square	14.515(a)	4	.006
	Likelihood Ratio	15.035	4	.005
	Linear-by-Linear Association	7.820	1	.005
	N of Valid Cases	2701		
Female	Pearson Chi-Square	16.355(b)	4	.003
	Likelihood Ratio	19.120	4	.001
	Linear-by-Linear Association	10.932	1	.001



Question 17: I can communicate my feelings to my partner.

The percentage of both males and females who answered “Yes” to this question saw significant increases (see Figure 17). The number of males who said “Yes” to this question increased 10.1% and the number of females who said “Yes” increased 11.8%, which were both statistically significant (see Table 23).

Figure 17

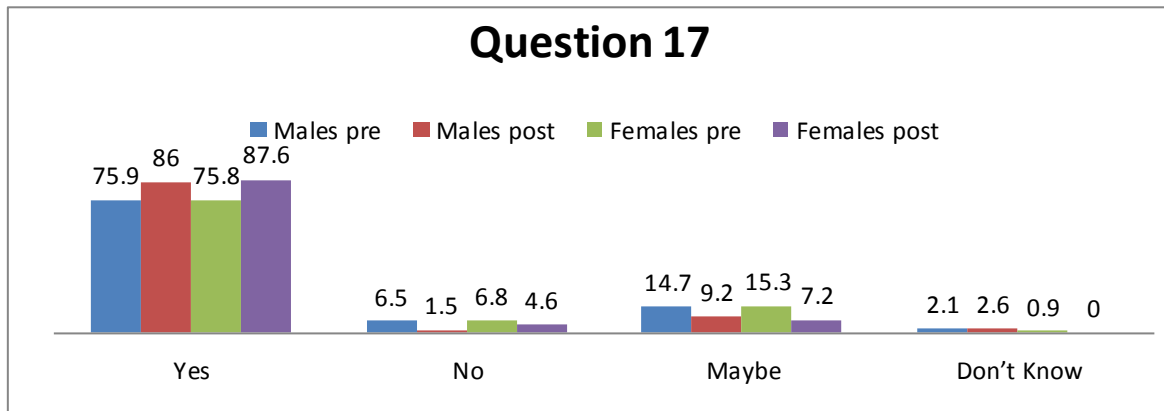


Table 23: Chi-Square Tests (Question 17)

GENDER		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Male	Pearson Chi-Square	53.235(a)	4	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	60.916	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	20.081	1	.000
	N of Valid Cases	2701		
Female	Pearson Chi-Square	22.142(b)	4	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	25.648	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	19.177	1	.000
	N of Valid Cases	1092		

Question 18: I tell my children something positive about them every time we talk (or write).

While starting at high levels, the percentages of both males and females who answered “Yes” to this question saw increases (see Figure 18). The number of males who said ”Yes” to this question increased 5.5%, which was significant at the .05% level. The number of females who answered “Yes” to this question increased 2.5%, which was not statistically significant (see Table 24).

Figure 18

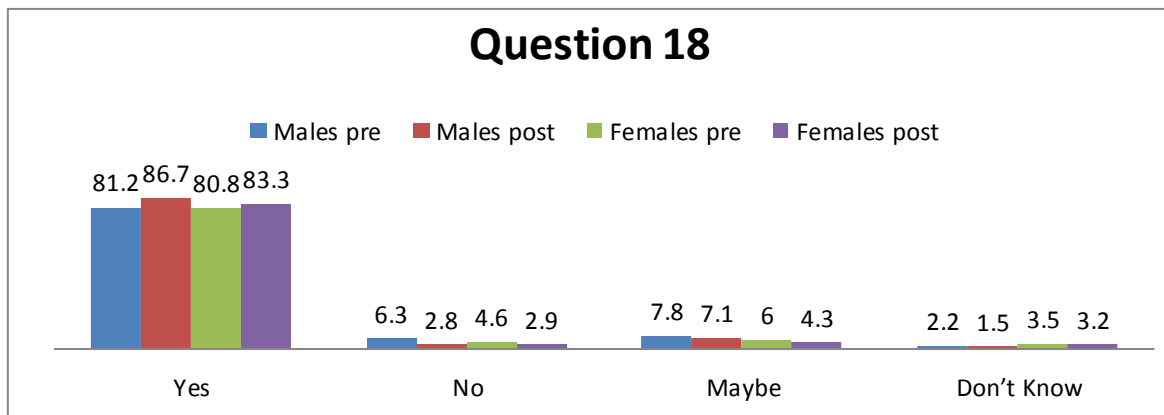


Table 24: Chi-Square Tests (Question 18)

GENDER		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Male	Pearson Chi-Square	18.910(a)	4	.001
	Likelihood Ratio	20.546	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	4.656	1	.031
	N of Valid Cases	2701		
Female	Pearson Chi-Square	3.845(b)	4	.427
	Likelihood Ratio	3.989	4	.407
	Linear-by-Linear Association	2.178	1	.140
	N of Valid Cases	1092		

Question 19: I must raise my voice to get my children to listen to me.

While interesting differences were seen between men and women, there was little change over time in the responses to this statement. The percentage of males who said “No” to this question saw a small increase of 2.6% (see Figure 19). The number of females who said “Maybe” to this question demonstrated a 3.3% increase. No changes were statistically significant (see Table 25).

Figure 19

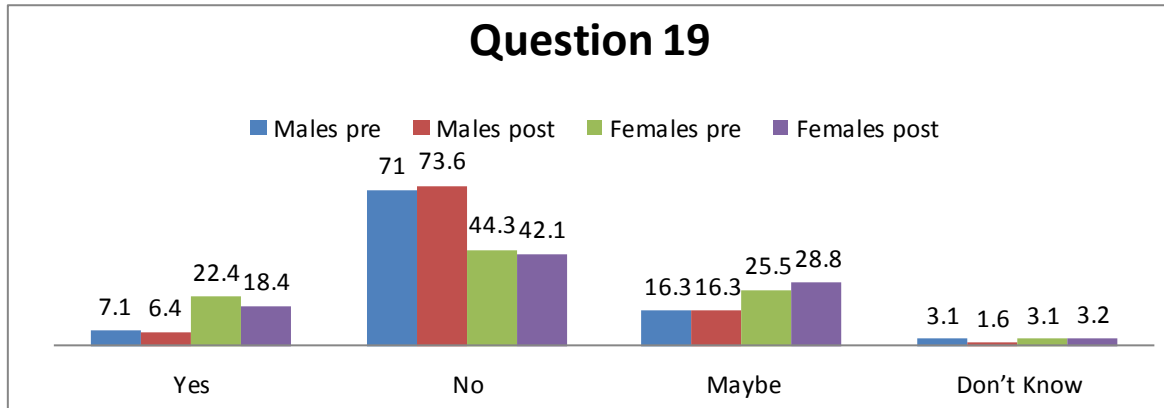


Table 25: Chi-Square Tests (Question 19)

GENDER		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Male	Pearson Chi-Square	6.713(a)	4	.152
	Likelihood Ratio	7.199	4	.126
	Linear-by-Linear Association	.260	1	.610
	N of Valid Cases	2701		
Female	Pearson Chi-Square	6.329(b)	4	.176
	Likelihood Ratio	6.201	4	.185
	Linear-by-Linear Association	.100	1	.752
	N of Valid Cases	1092		

Question 20: I would be better able to reach my short-term and long-term goals if I would think about the consequences of my actions before I decide to do something.

While starting at high levels, responses for both males and females saw increases in the percentage who answered "Yes" to this question (see Figure 20). In contrast to other findings, changes in responses to this statement were not statistically significant for males, but were significant for females (see Table 26). The number of males who said "Yes" to this question increased 2.4%, while the number of females who said "Yes" increased 8.8%.

Figure 20

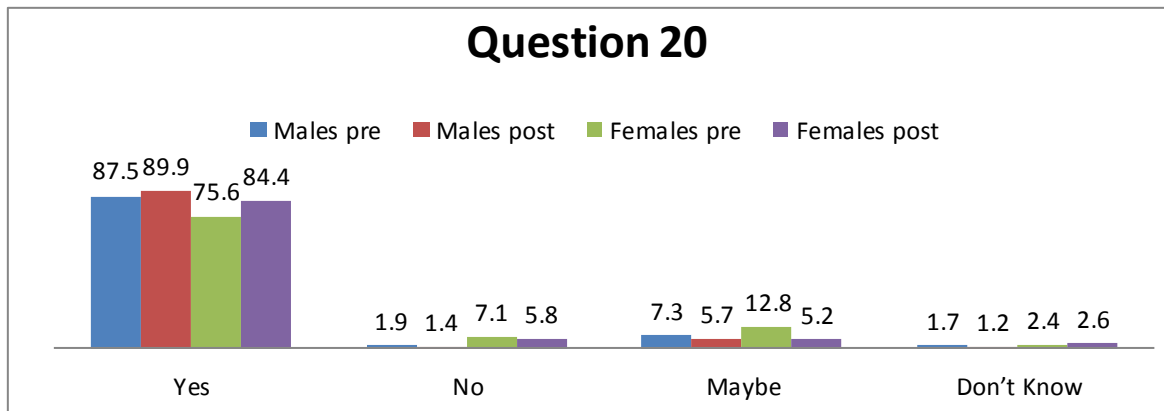


Table 26: Chi-Square Tests (Question 20)

GENDER		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Male	Pearson Chi-Square	4.276(a)	4	.370
	Likelihood Ratio	4.406	4	.354
	Linear-by-Linear Association	3.636	1	.057
	N of Valid Cases	2701		
Female	Pearson Chi-Square	16.160(b)	4	.003
	Likelihood Ratio	17.881	4	.001
	Linear-by-Linear Association	9.582	1	.002
	N of Valid Cases	1092		

Question 21: I have a good relationship with the mother/father of my children.

While starting at high levels, the percentages of both males and females who answered “Yes” to this question increased (see Figure 21). The number of males who answered “Yes” to this question increased 8.3%, which was statistically significant. The number of females who answered “Yes” increased 7.4%, which was not statistically significant (see Table 27).

Figure 21

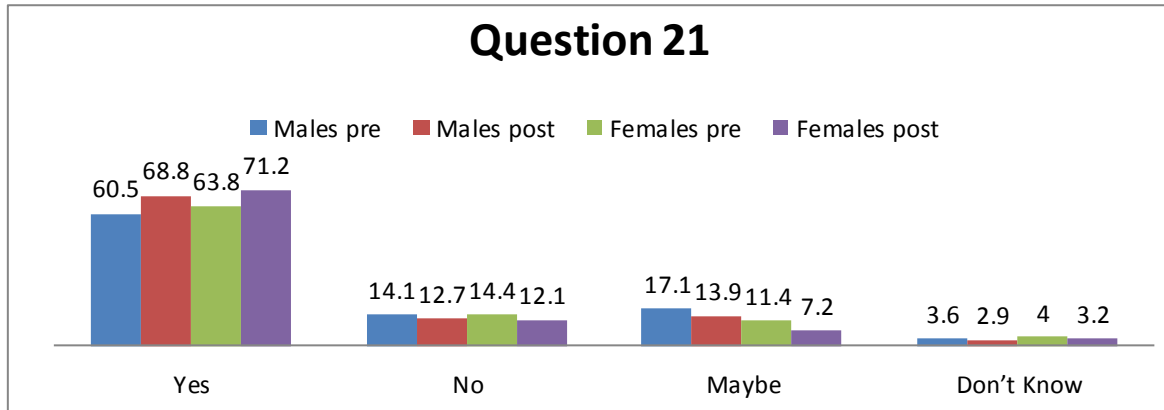


Table 27: Chi-Square Tests (Question 21)

GENDER		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Male	Pearson Chi-Square	26.789(a)	4	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	29.071	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	2.990	1	.084
	N of Valid Cases	2701		
Female	Pearson Chi-Square	7.480(b)	4	.113
	Likelihood Ratio	7.749	4	.101
	Linear-by-Linear Association	5.153	1	.023
	N of Valid Cases	1092		

Question 22: My children talk to me about their friends.

While starting at high levels, the percentages of both males and females who answered “Yes” to this question showed increases (see Figure 22). The number of males who said “Yes” to this question increased 7.8%, which was statistically significant. The number of females who answered “Yes” increased 4.1%, which was not statistically significant (see Table 28).

Figure 22

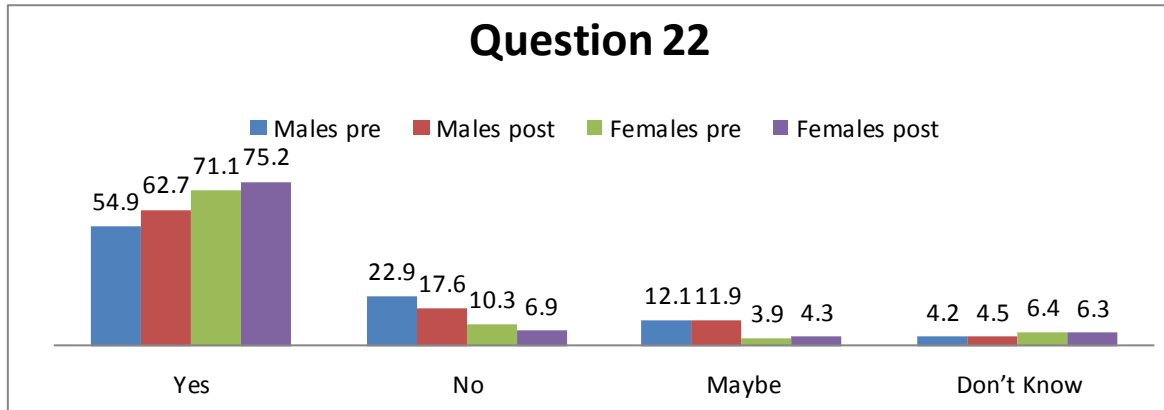


Table 28: Chi-Square Tests (Question 22)

GENDER		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Male	Pearson Chi-Square	22.415(a)	5	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	23.475	5	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	.440	1	.507
	N of Valid Cases	2701		
Female	Pearson Chi-Square	3.938(b)	4	.414
	Likelihood Ratio	4.100	4	.393
	Linear-by-Linear Association	.102	1	.750
	N of Valid Cases	1092		

Question 23: I communicate with my family without getting angry.

The percentages of both males and females who answered “Yes” to this question saw significant increases (see Figure 23). The number of males who said “Yes” to this question increased 10.5% and the number of females who said “Yes” increased 8.5%, both of which were statistically significant (see Table 29).

Figure 23

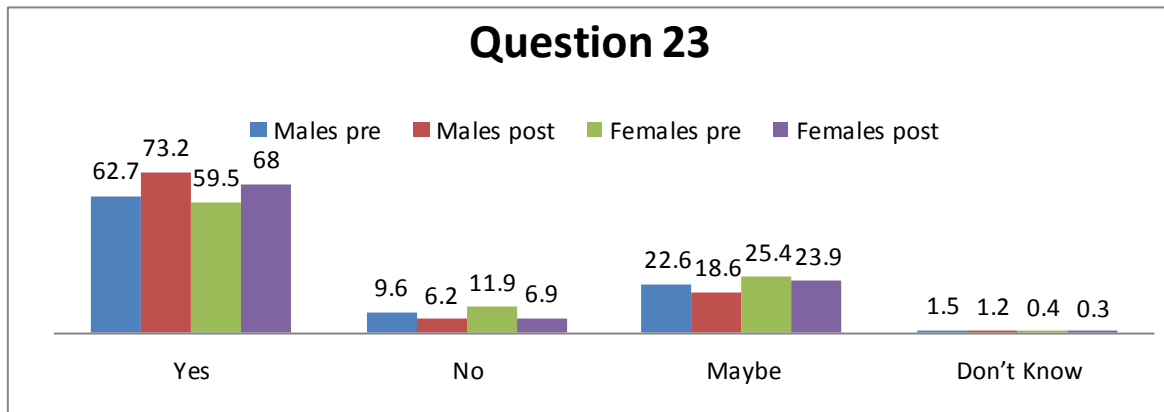


Table 29: Chi-Square Tests (Question 23)

GENDER		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Male	Pearson Chi-Square	40.212(a)	4	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	44.685	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	6.276	1	.012
	N of Valid Cases	2701		
Female	Pearson Chi-Square	12.968(b)	4	.011
	Likelihood Ratio	14.109	4	.007
	Linear-by-Linear Association	1.172	1	.279
	N of Valid Cases	1092		

Question 24: My family thinks I am a good listener.

The percentages of both males and females who answered “Yes” to this question showed significant increases (see Figure 24). The number of males who said “Yes” to this question increased 11.6% and the number of females who said “Yes” increased 10.3%, both of which were statistically significant (see Table 30).

Figure 24

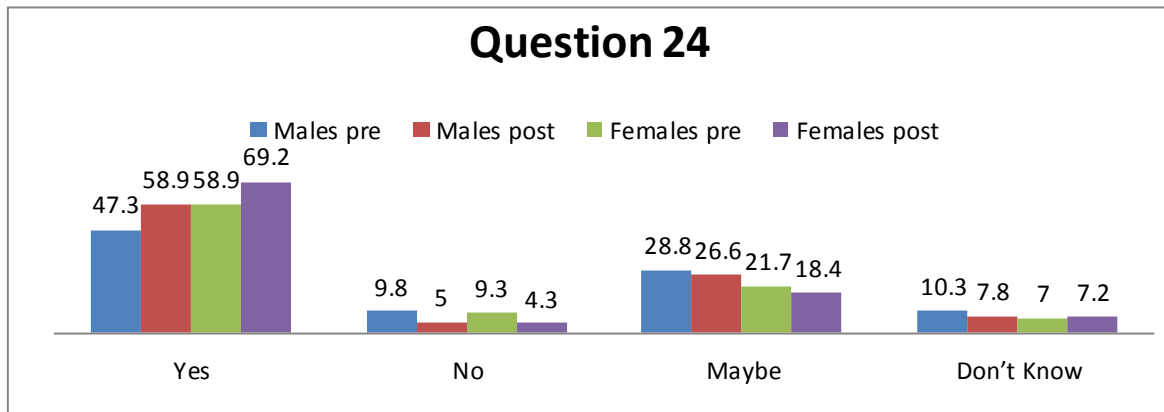


Table 30: Chi-Square Tests (Question 24)

GENDER		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Male	Pearson Chi-Square	45.811(a)	4	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	48.088	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	9.832	1	.002
	N of Valid Cases	2701		
Female	Pearson Chi-Square	17.674(b)	4	.001
	Likelihood Ratio	19.411	4	.001
	Linear-by-Linear Association	1.603	1	.206
	N of Valid Cases	1092		



Question 25: I can say “no” when my children ask to do something I know is wrong.

While starting at high levels, the percentages of both males and females who answered “Yes” to this question revealed increases (see Figure 25). The number of males who said “Yes” to this question increased 4.2%, which was statistically significant. The number of females who answered “Yes” increased 1.4%, which was not statistically significant (see Table 31).

Figure 25

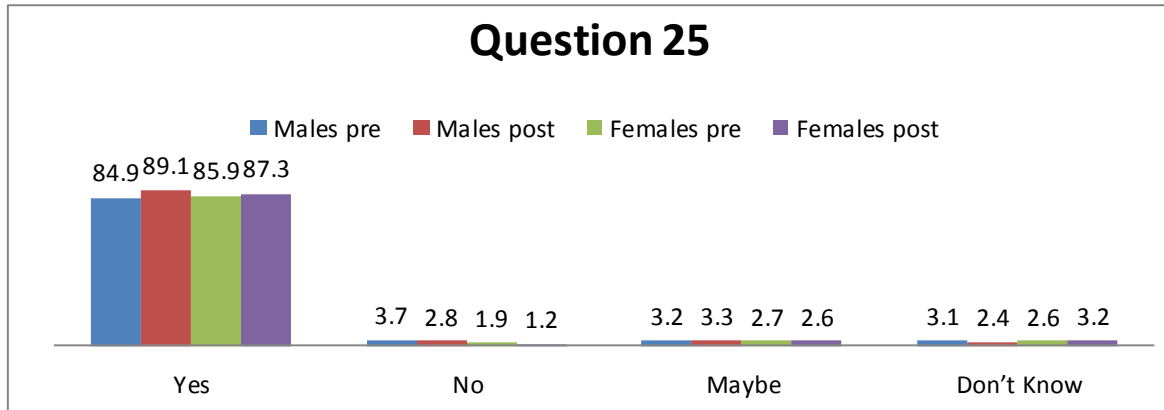


Table 31: Chi-Square Tests (Question 25)

GENDER		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Male	Pearson Chi-Square	14.015(a)	4	.007
	Likelihood Ratio	15.168	4	.004
	Linear-by-Linear Association	.010	1	.919
	N of Valid Cases	2701		
Female	Pearson Chi-Square	1.682(b)	4	.794
	Likelihood Ratio	1.738	4	.784
	Linear-by-Linear Association	.259	1	.611
	N of Valid Cases	1092		

Question 26: Doing fun things together will strengthen my marriage/partner relationship.

While starting at high levels, there were small but significant increases in the percentages of both males and females who answered “Yes” to this question (see Figure 26). The number of males who answered “Yes” increased 3.7%, and the number of females who answered “Yes” to this question increased 4.9%, both of which were statistically significant (see Table 32).

Figure 26

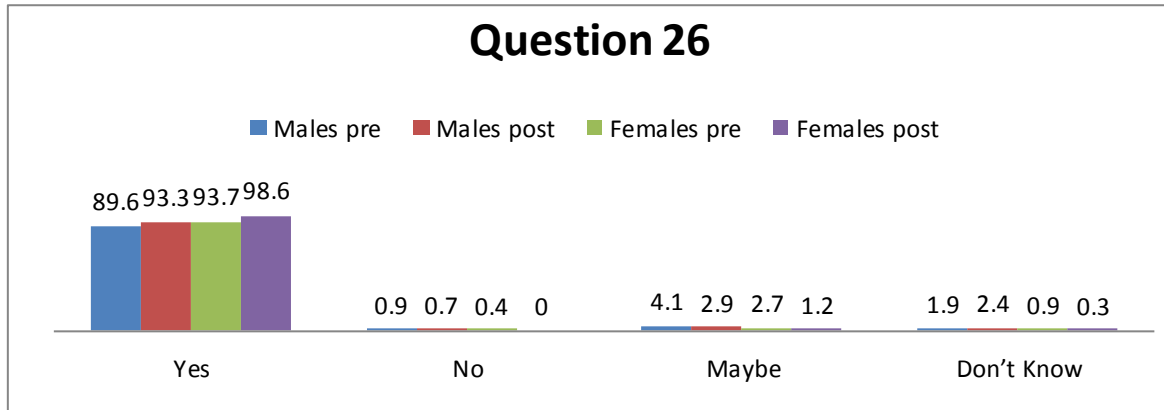


Table 32: Chi-Square Tests (Question 26)

GENDER		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Male	Pearson Chi-Square	22.107(a)	4	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	26.675	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	.438	1	.508
	N of Valid Cases	2701		
Female	Pearson Chi-Square	13.803(b)	4	.008
	Likelihood Ratio	20.338	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	1.376	1	.241
	N of Valid Cases	1092		

Question 27: Setting goals for the future will help me show my family I care about them.

While starting at high levels, the percentages of both males and females who answered “Yes” to this question showed small but significant increases in percentages (see Figure 27). The number of males who said “Yes” to this question increased 3.2% and the number of females who said “Yes” increased 5.5%, both of which were statistically significant (see Table 33).

Figure 27

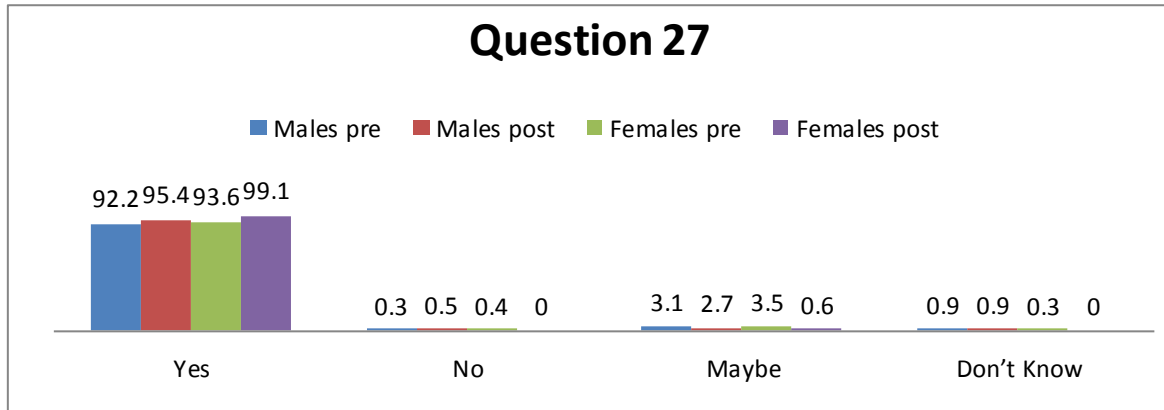


Table 33: Chi-Square Tests (Question 27)

GENDER		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Male	Pearson Chi-Square	21.807(a)	4	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	27.470	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	1.628	1	.202
	N of Valid Cases	2701		
Female	Pearson Chi-Square	16.648(b)	4	.002
	Likelihood Ratio	22.221	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	4.406	1	.036
	N of Valid Cases	1092		

Question 28: I will make better choices for the future.

While starting at high levels, the percentages of both males and females who answered “Yes” to this question saw small but significant increases (see Figure 28). The number of males who said “Yes” to this question increased 2.2% and the number of females who answered “Yes” increased 3.5%, both statistically significant increases (see Table 34).

Figure 28

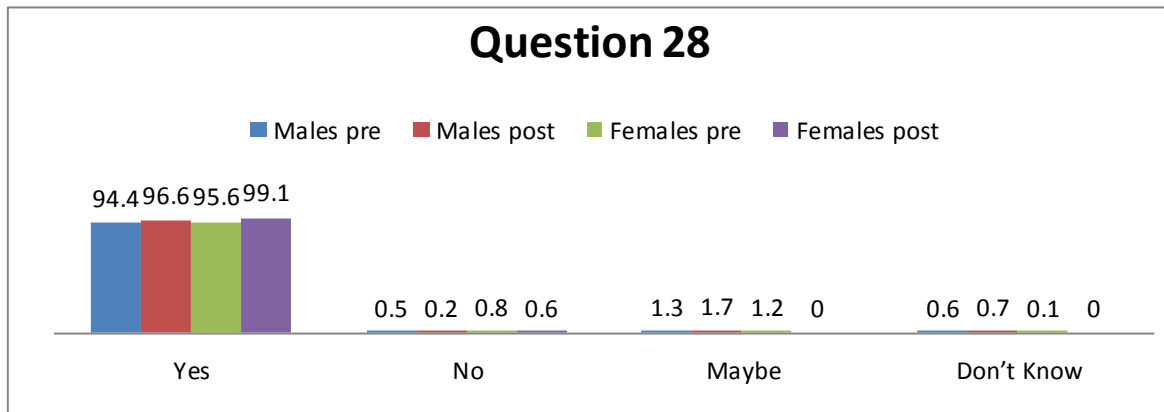


Table 34: Chi-Square Tests (Question 28)

GENDER		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Male	Pearson Chi-Square	16.334(a)	4	.003
	Likelihood Ratio	19.400	4	.001
	Linear-by-Linear Association	4.585	1	.032
	N of Valid Cases	2701		
Female	Pearson Chi-Square	10.847(b)	4	.028
	Likelihood Ratio	15.704	4	.003
	Linear-by-Linear Association	.405	1	.525
	N of Valid Cases	1092		

Question 29: I lose my temper when my partner disagrees with me.

The percentages of both males and females who answered “No” to this question saw significant increases (see Figure 29). The number of males who said “No” to this question increased 12.3% and the number of females who said “No” also increased 12.3%, both of which were statistically significant results (see Table 35).

Figure 29

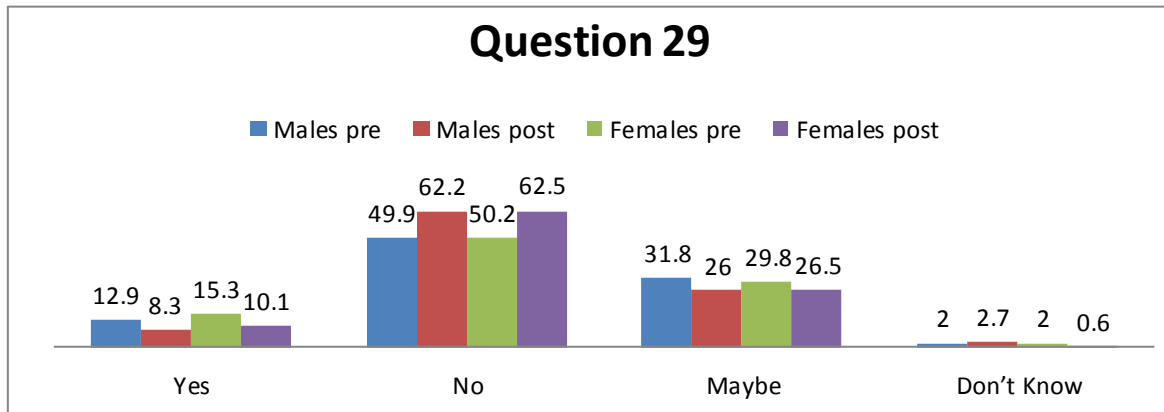


Table 35: Chi-Square Tests (Question 29)

GENDER		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Male	Pearson Chi-Square	52.055(a)	4	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	55.953	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	3.312	1	.069
	N of Valid Cases	2701		
Female	Pearson Chi-Square	22.473(b)	4	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	25.667	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	.646	1	.422
	N of Valid Cases	1092		

Question 30: My partner loses his/her temper when we disagree.

The percentages of both males and females who answered “No” to this question saw significant increases (see Figure 30). The number of males who said “No” to this question increased 9.5% and the number of females who said “No” increased 13.9%, both of which were statistically significant (see Table 36).

Figure 30

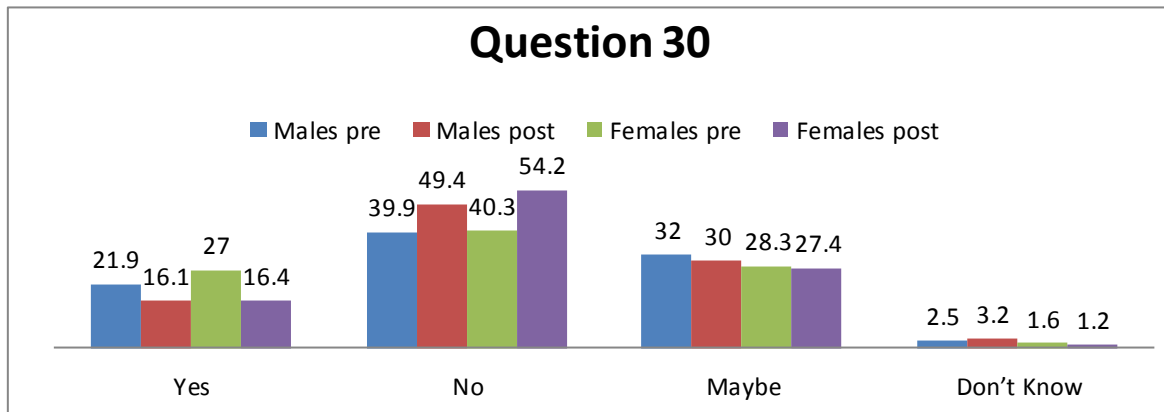


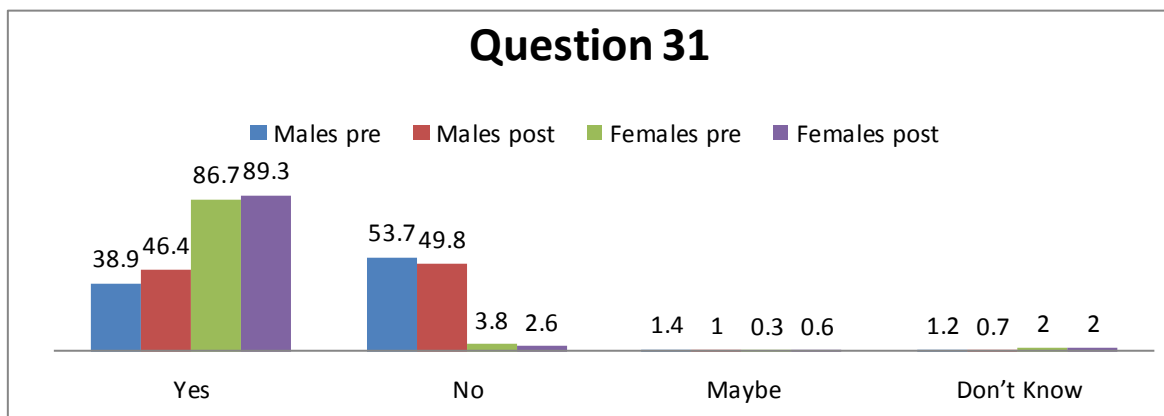
Table 36: Chi-Square Tests (Question 30)

GENDER		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Male	Pearson Chi-Square	35.045(a)	4	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	36.642	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	7.556	1	.006
	N of Valid Cases	2701		
Female	Pearson Chi-Square	25.938(b)	4	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	27.119	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	5.672	1	.017
	N of Valid Cases	1092		

Question 31: I have seen my children in the past 30 days.

While the pattern of responses between males and females is very different for this statement, that is not surprising. Males who are incarcerated have less opportunity to see their children than their female partners do. Even so, males, who started (and ended) with much less contact with their children than females, still saw a significant increase in the percentage who answered “Yes” to this question (see Figure 31). The number of males who said “Yes” to this question increased 7.5%, which was statistically significant. The number of females who answered “Yes” increased 2.6%, which was not statistically significant (see Table 37).

**Figure 31**



**Table 37: Chi-Square Tests (Question 31)**

GENDER		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Male	Pearson Chi-Square	23.076(a)	5	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	24.600	5	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	1.805	1	.179
	N of Valid Cases	2701		
Female	Pearson Chi-Square	2.860(b)	4	.582
	Likelihood Ratio	2.905	4	.574
	Linear-by-Linear Association	.122	1	.727
	N of Valid Cases	1092		

Question 32: I communicate with my family at least 3 times a week.

As with the prior question, the pattern of responses between males and females is very different for this statement, but somewhat expected. Males who are incarcerated have less opportunity to speak with their families than do their female partners. Even so, the males, who started (and ended) with much less communication than females, still showed a significant increase in the percentage who answered “Yes” to this question (see Figure 32). The number of males who said “Yes” to this question increased 11.4%, which was statistically significant. The number of females who answered “Yes” to this question increased 2.2%, which was not statistically significant (see Table 38).

Figure 32

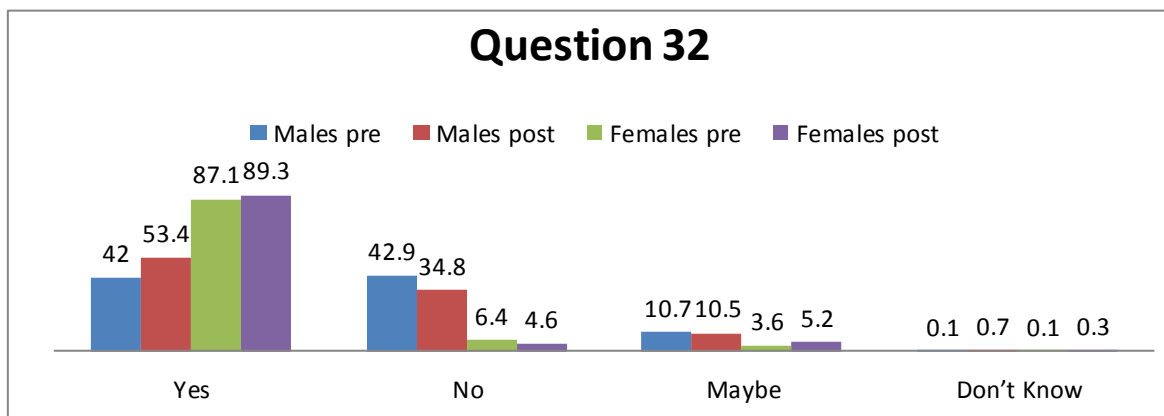


Table 38: Chi-Square Tests (Question 32)

GENDER		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Male	Pearson Chi-Square	48.506(a)	5	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	54.864	5	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	3.148	1	.076
	N of Valid Cases	2701		
Female	Pearson Chi-Square	8.422(b)	4	.077
	Likelihood Ratio	9.660	4	.047
	Linear-by-Linear Association	1.447	1	.229
	N of Valid Cases	1092		



Question 33: I limit what I tell my partner so he/she will not get angry.

The percentages of both males and females who answered “No” to this question saw significant increases (see Figure 33). The number of males who said “No” to this question increased 15.3% and the number of females who responded “No” increased 16.9%, both of which were statistically significant (see Table 39).

Figure 33

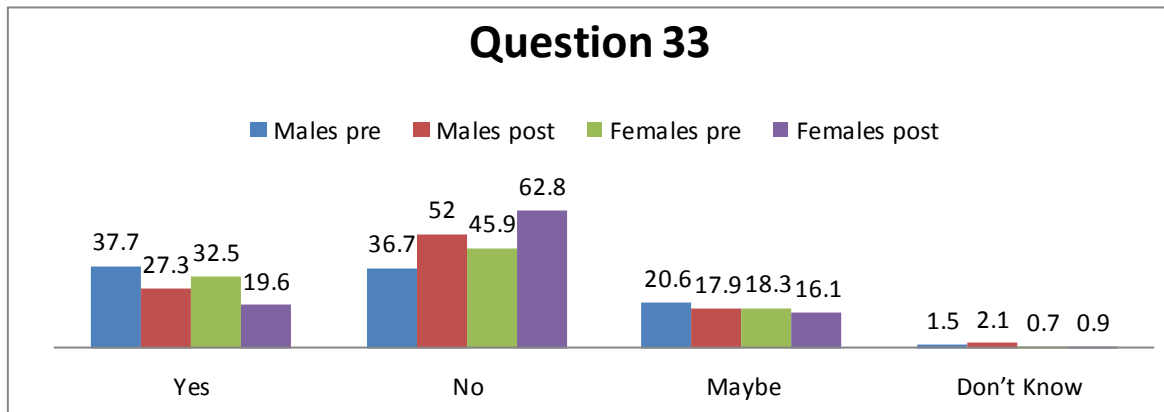


Table 39: Chi-Square Tests (Question 33)

GENDER		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Male	Pearson Chi-Square	74.684(a)	4	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	78.893	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	18.535	1	.000
	N of Valid Cases	2701		
Female	Pearson Chi-Square	33.008(b)	4	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	34.779	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	10.131	1	.001
	N of Valid Cases	1092		

Question 34: I often share my feelings when talking to my partner/family.

The percentages of both males and females who answered “Yes” to this question saw significant increases (see Figure 34). The number of males who said “Yes” to this question increased 11.3% and the number of females who said “Yes” increased 8.2%, both of which were statistically significant (see Table 40).

Figure 34

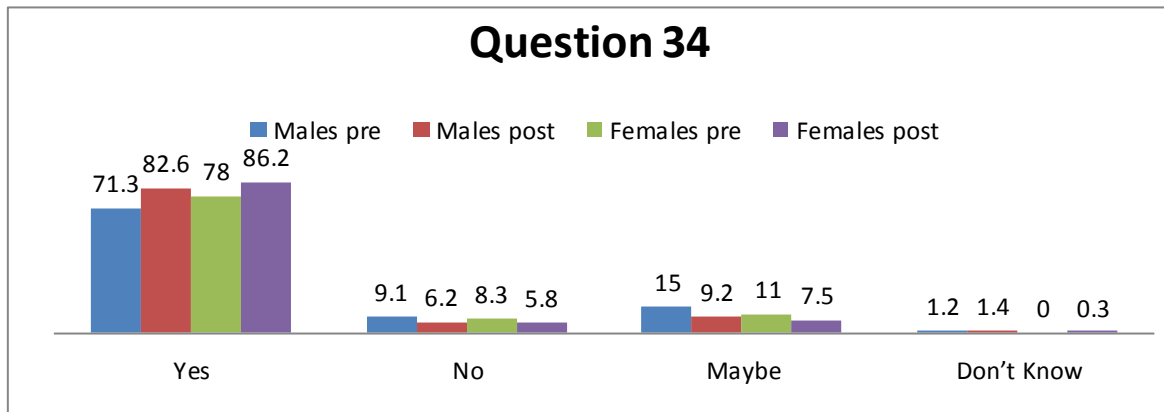


Table 40: Chi-Square Tests (Question 34)

GENDER		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Male	Pearson Chi-Square	49.409(a)	4	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	54.862	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	12.432	1	.000
	N of Valid Cases	2701		
Female	Pearson Chi-Square	16.201(b)	4	.003
	Likelihood Ratio	19.056	4	.001
	Linear-by-Linear Association	2.188	1	.139
	N of Valid Cases	1092		

Question 35: I always explain what I want to my partner.

The percentages of both males and females who answered “Yes” to this question saw significant increases (see Figure 35). The number of males who said “Yes” to this question increased 11.1% and the number of females who said “Yes” increased 9.3%, both of which were statistically significant (see Table 41).

Figure 35

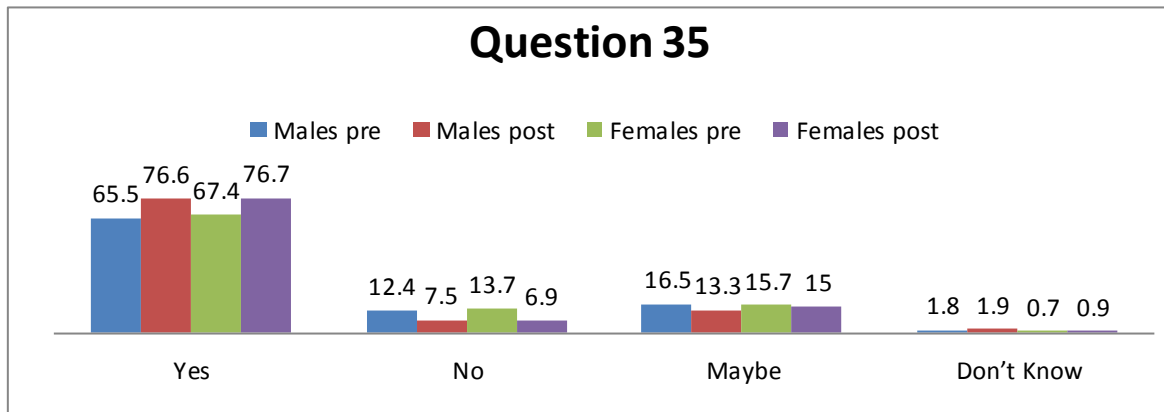


Table 41: Chi-Square Tests (Question 35)

GENDER		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Male	Pearson Chi-Square	48.435(a)	4	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	54.567	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	5.151	1	.023
	N of Valid Cases	2701		
Female	Pearson Chi-Square	17.309(b)	4	.002
	Likelihood Ratio	19.290	4	.001
	Linear-by-Linear Association	1.190	1	.275
	N of Valid Cases	1092		

Question 36: My partner includes my wants in all decisions.

The percentages of both males and females who answered “Yes” to this question saw significant increases (see Figure 36). The number of males who said “Yes” to this question increased 11.4% and the number of females who said “Yes” increased 13.4%, both of which were statistically significant (see Table 42).

Figure 36

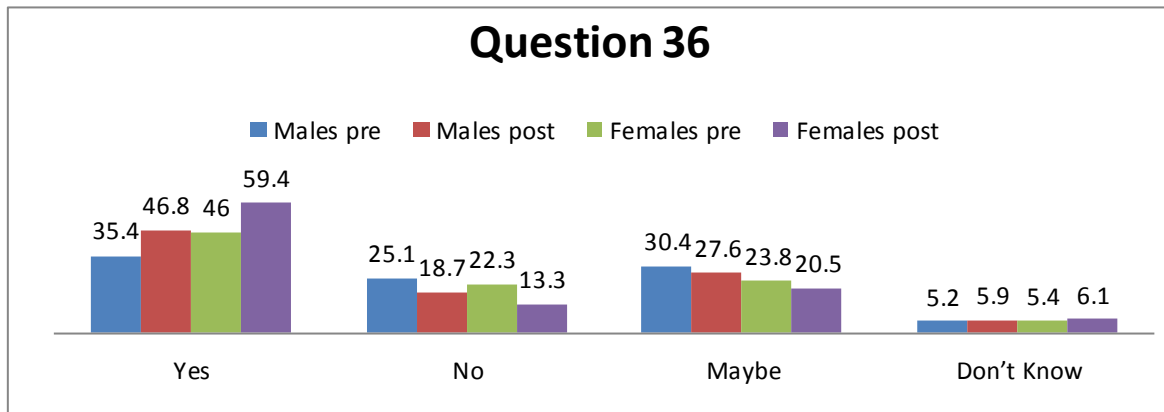


Table 42: Chi-Square Tests (Question 36)

GENDER		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Male	Pearson Chi-Square	48.751(a)	4	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	51.824	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	3.017	1	.082
	N of Valid Cases	2701		
Female	Pearson Chi-Square	22.965(b)	4	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	24.003	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	3.368	1	.066
	N of Valid Cases	1092		

Question 37: I have a collaborative relationship with my partner.

The percentages of both males and females who answered “Yes” to this question showed significant increases (see Figure 37). The number of males who said “Yes” to this question increased 16.7% and the number of females who answered “Yes” increased 14.9%, both of which were statistically significant (see Table 43).

Figure 37

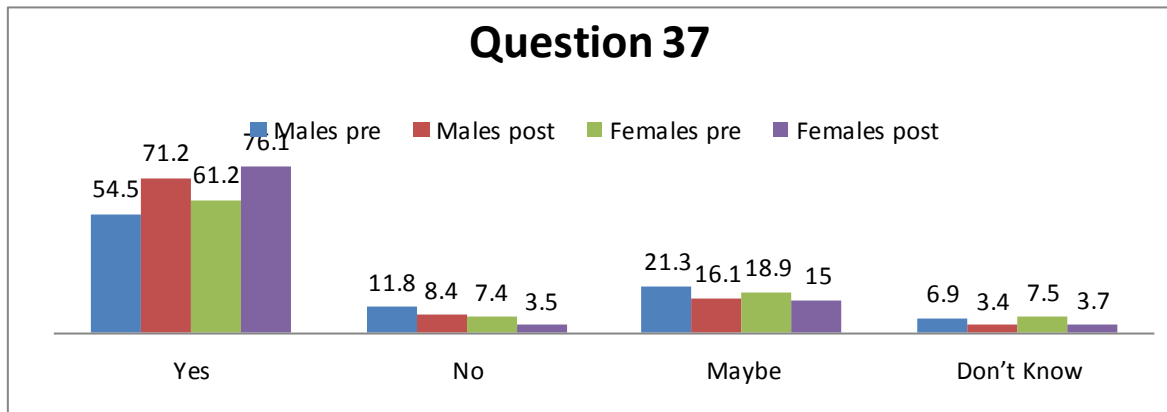


Table 43: Chi-Square Tests (Question 37)

GENDER		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Male	Pearson Chi-Square	83.996(a)	4	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	92.372	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	23.056	1	.000
	N of Valid Cases	2701		
Female	Pearson Chi-Square	27.591(b)	4	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	29.636	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	8.842	1	.003
	N of Valid Cases	1092		

Question 38: It is important for me to be married to my partner.

While starting at high levels, the percentages of both males and females who answered “Yes” to this question increased (see Figure 38). The number of males who said “Yes” to this question increased 9.4%, which was statistically significant. The number of females who said “Yes” increased 5.3%, which was not statistically significant (see Table 44).

Figure 38

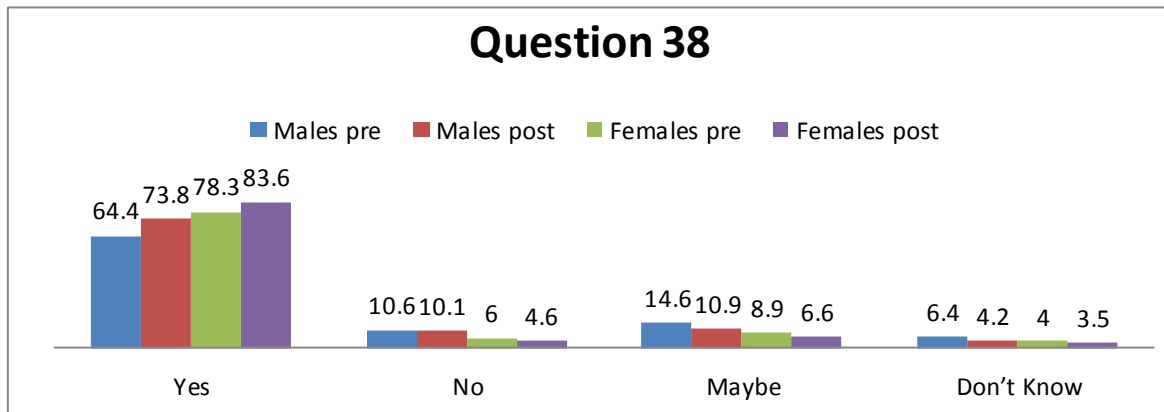


Table 44: Chi-Square Tests (Question 38)

GENDER		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Male	Pearson Chi-Square	34.894(a)	4	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	38.208	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	9.047	1	.003
	N of Valid Cases	2701		
Female	Pearson Chi-Square	4.485(b)	4	.344
	Likelihood Ratio	4.644	4	.326
	Linear-by-Linear Association	1.524	1	.217
	N of Valid Cases	1092		

Question 39: My children know they can talk to me about anything.

While starting at high levels, the percentages of both males and females who answered “Yes” to this question increased (see Figure 39). The number of males who said “Yes” to this question increased 9.8%, which was statistically significant. The number of females who said “Yes” increased 1.8%, which was not statistically significant (see Table 45).

Figure 39

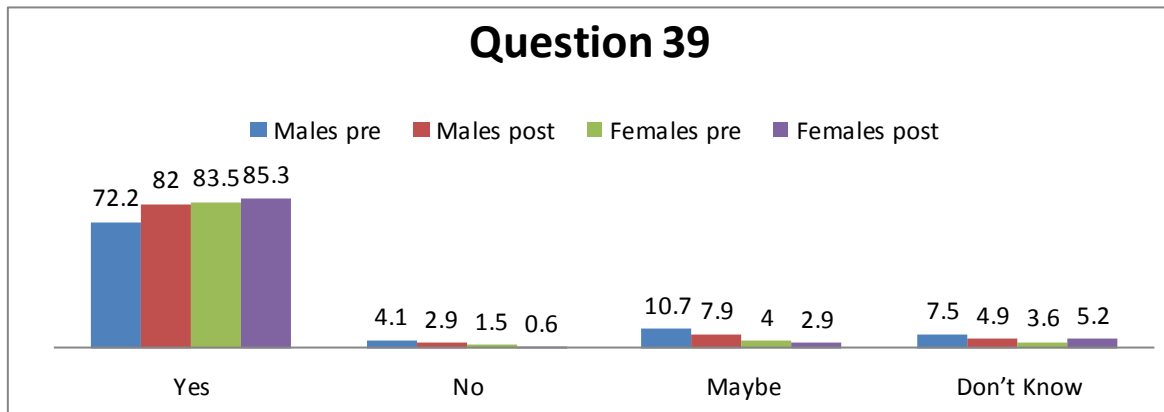


Table 45: Chi-Square Tests (Question 39)

GENDER		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Male	Pearson Chi-Square	34.854(a)	4	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	37.186	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	8.127	1	.004
	N of Valid Cases	2701		
Female	Pearson Chi-Square	4.557(b)	4	.336
	Likelihood Ratio	4.780	4	.311
	Linear-by-Linear Association	.327	1	.568
	N of Valid Cases	1092		

Question 40: I plan to spend the rest of my life with my partner.

While starting at high levels, the percentages of both males and females who answered “Yes” to this question saw increases (see Figure 40). The number of males who said “Yes” to this question increased 7.3%, which was statistically significant. The number of females who said “Yes” increased 6.7%, which just failed significance at the .05% level (see Table 46).

Figure 40

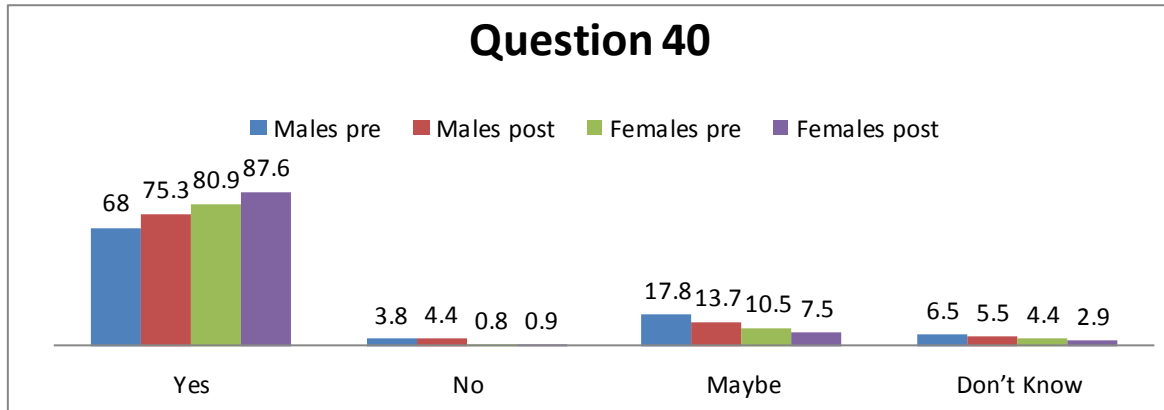


Table 46: Chi-Square Tests (Question 40)

GENDER		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Male	Pearson Chi-Square	28.930(a)	4	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	32.446	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	3.481	1	.062
	N of Valid Cases	2701		
Female	Pearson Chi-Square	9.247(b)	4	.055
	Likelihood Ratio	10.112	4	.039
	Linear-by-Linear Association	2.396	1	.122
	N of Valid Cases	1092		



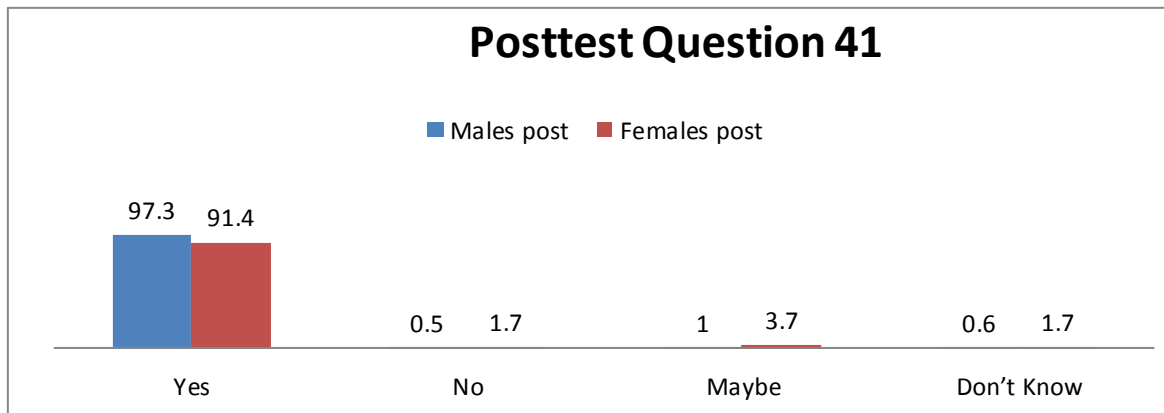
**Posttest only questions:**

Question 41: I have learned new information to help me communicate better.

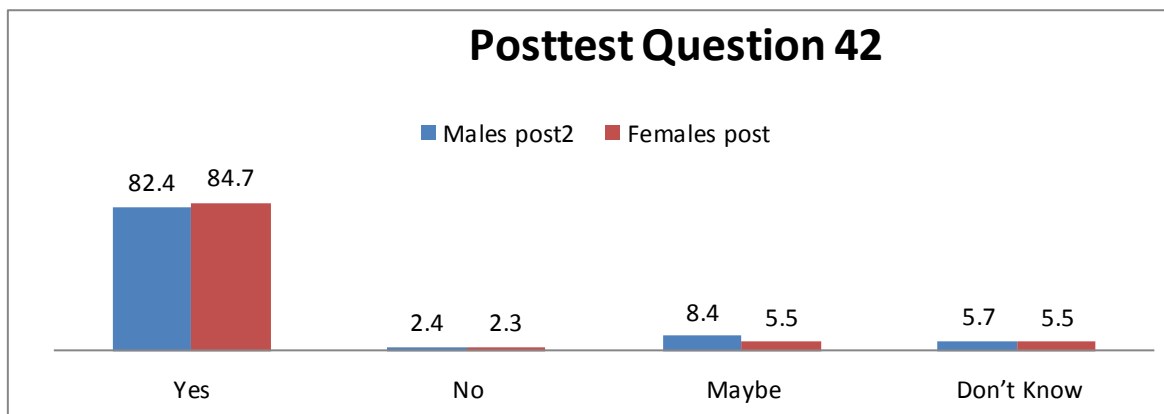
Question 42: I feel this class has made my relationship with my partner stronger.

When asked about their perceptions of the value of the program, both male and female participants strongly indicated they felt the program was beneficial. When asked if the program would help them communicate better, 97.3% of males and 91.4% of females agreed (see Figure 41). When asked if the class made their relationship stronger, 82.4% of males and 84.7% of female partners agreed (see Figure 42). Because these questions were only asked once (on posttest), no significance testing was conducted.

**Figure 41**



**Figure 42**



## Evaluation of Open-Ended Comments

More than 120 open-ended comments and remarks, collected by program staff, were examined. This data was examined by use of standard coding procedures to look for common themes and the frequency of those themes.

Participant remarks typically contained one or more of several “core concepts.” These common themes were in the following four areas:

- Participants expressed how the program has helped their relationships, including resolving relationship problems and saving or strengthening their marriages/relationships. **Approximately three-fourths of participants described how the program has helped their relationships.**

*“I want to thank the RIDGE Program because before this program, me and my kids’ mother used to fight and argue all the time in front of our kids. But due to the love we have for each other we would still be together. That was showing that arguing and fighting was okay and it’s not. So now that I have collaborative marriage skills and I won’t ever have to worry about my kids thinking it’s okay. So I want to thank the RIDGE program a lot.”*

- Participants expressed gratitude and thanks for being able to be a part of the program and for the caring and efforts of program staff. **More than half of participants expressed their thanks and gratitude.**

*“I truly appreciate the Ridge Project! And for allowing me and my family to be a part of the success. Thank you.”*

- Participants often described the specific skills that they learned as part of the program and the benefit this has had in their lives. Communication skills were the most commonly mentioned skills learned. **More than a third of participants discussed such specific skills.**

*“This class taught a new way to communicate. My wife and I have already made a commitment to each other when we got saved and married. Your program has allowed us to get back on the right path. Thank you!”*

- Several participants expressed their perceptions that the program was very well run or that this was a good program. **Approximately one out of six participants commented on the quality of the program.**

*“Very, very, very good job.”*

## **Conclusion / Evaluative Assessment of Findings**

It is clear from both the quantitative and qualitative examination of the data that the RIDGE Project's Keeping Families and Inmates Together in Harmony (Keeping Faith) Program is definitely having a positive impact on participants.

Examination of the 40 statements/questions posed to participants before and after program classes show significant change over time. As a group, males show statistically significant changes in responses to 39 of the 40 statements. Such changes across the board are impressive for any such program. Female participants showed significant changes in responses to 27 out of 40 statements, which is also an overall positive result.

### Differences between Males and Females

The differences in areas of significance between male and female responses appear to reflect both the impact of a smaller female sample size and the impact of real world contextual and programmatic differences. That is to say, the program appears to impact males and females in somewhat different ways given their involvement patterns and where they started on each statement, which in many cases was very different for males and female partners.

Just as important as the statistical significance of the findings is the fact that in all cases (statistically significant or not), the changes in overall group responses were always in a positive (pro-social) direction. In no cases did responses show more negative or unwanted behaviors or attitudes over time.

### Ceiling Effect

In assessing changes in the responses to many statements, it appears clear that there is a "ceiling effect," where the amount of detectable positive change over time is limited by the high level of positive responses at baseline. Such statements may reflect a pro-social bias, where people answer in a way that makes them feel good about themselves (or deny problems that may exist). For example, examining responses to Question 18, "I tell my children something positive about them every time we talk (or write)." at least 80% of men and women responded to this statement by answering "Yes" at baseline. If such behaviors increase during the program, detecting these changes becomes difficult, as there is a limited amount of improvement that can take place.

In addition, it seems likely that some of these "ceiling effects" are products of the investments in relationships made by participants prior to being involved in the program, which made it more likely that these people would want to be involved in the program. For example, when responding to Question 1, "My relationship with my partner is more important to me than almost anything else," approximately 80% of participants agreed with the statement at baseline. This may indicate that if they were not already invested in

the relationship prior to the program, they might not have participated in the program when the opportunity arose.

The existence of a “ceiling effect” mutes the detectable/demonstrated impact of a program. Such effects appear to be impacting a number of questions, including Questions 1, 14, 15, 16, 18, 20, 25, 26, 27, 28, and 39. While significant changes were still detectable for this program due to the large sample size, it is likely that the impact of the program in these indicators is actually larger than shown by the available data. Finding ways to restate questions or creating different indicators for success in these areas may enable future research to detect larger effects.

### Relationship Skills

Many of the most robust findings and largest effects can be seen in the indicators that assess the skills and techniques that are taught by the program. The following statements all showed large and significant group-level changes of between 10% and 21% in the percentage of people who answered “Yes” to these statements:

- Question 3: I interrupt my partner when we are arguing.
- Question 4: When discussing issues, I show my partner that I am listening by repeating back what I heard.
- Question 5: It is more important for me to understand my partner than for me to be right.
- Question 6: When our talks begin to get out of hand, we agree to stop and talk later.
- Question 7: Before trying to solve an important problem, we try to talk through the issues that are involved so that we really understand each other.
- Question 17: I can communicate my feelings to my partner.

These findings are supported by the open-ended comments. It is clear that people are learning valuable relationship skills that will have long-term benefit to them.

### Relationship Quality

Not only are people learning skills that can make their relationships better; it is clear they are using these skills during the program and that this is having an immediate positive impact on the quality of their relationships and their expectations for the future.

Responses to the following statements about the participants’ relationships showed significant and robust improvements from pretest to posttest:

- Question 8: We have arguments that erupt over minor events.
- Question 9: It is hard to discuss issues without getting into a heated argument.
- Question 11: I feel we can talk calmly about anything.
- Question 13: I work hard in my relationship to be the best partner I can be.
- Question 29: I lose my temper when my partner disagrees with me.
- Question 33: I limit what I tell my partner so he/she will not get angry.

- Question 36: My partner includes my wants in all decisions.
- Question 37: I have a collaborative relationship with my partner.

Again, these findings are strongly supported by the open-ended remarks of the participants, in which approximately 75% of respondents indicated that their relationship had dramatically improved as a result of their participation in the program.

### Perceived Impact

The findings from the open-ended responses and the posttest-only questions below make it clear that participants feel strongly that this program has had a dramatic and lasting impact on their relationships.

- Question 41: I have learned new information to help me communicate better.
- Question 42: I feel this class has made my relationship with my partner stronger.

## Summary

As described in the methods section, this analysis has been conservative in nature and process to ensure that all findings are reliable and valid. However, examining each question or statement individually can hide the overall impact that a program such as this has on participants. It is clear from a comprehensive review of the data provided that this Keeping the FAITH program has real and substantial positive impacts on participants.

These impacts appear to be both in terms of skills learned and behavioral changes that are taking place in the relationships in families that are a part of the program. Obviously this analysis cannot say with certainty how well such changes will be maintained over time once incarcerated males are released into the community. However, the self-reported behavioral changes noted by participants are an encouraging sign that the program is having the right type of impact to be sustained. Additional research would be needed to confirm such a hypothesis.

Long-term impacts are supported, however, by recidivism data obtained by the Ridge Project from the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections. This data shows that to date, 41 men who participated in the program have been released for more than one year. Twenty-eight of these men “completed” the entire Keeping the FAITH program, and as of May 2010 none of those men had returned to prison or committed a new crime. Further, of the additional 13 men who participated in, but did not complete the program, only 2 had committed further offenses. In total, this is a 5% one-year recidivism rate for men who had participated in the program, well below the national average of 44.1% recidivism after one year.

Perhaps the real impact of the program can best be described by the participants themselves, and as such we will conclude this report with a quote from one of them.

***“This program has helped me and my partner a great deal. I thank you so much and also, I hope that we can further our growth with the help of the program once my partner is released. I also have a friend who is in [dire] need of a program like this for her relationship. Thanks again Ron and Cathy, we love you.”***