

there have been more than one. This information is therefore not identical to that contained in table 5.14. Nonetheless, it pertains to the same basic behavior, and it is useful to see whether it corroborates or conflicts with the behavior seen in that table. The percentage responding yes to this question, by gender and birth cohort, is reported in table 5.15. The same question was asked in the 1991 GSS survey in an SAQ format as well; in that sample of adults in the age range eighteen to fifty-nine, 21.7 percent of the men and 13.4 percent of the women responded yes.

**5.4 Multivariate Analysis of the Number of Partners**

We have seen that the most important social factors that distinguish adults in terms of number of sex partners are marital status, gender, and age. To conclude this chapter, we present, briefly, a more sophisticated statistical analysis of the factors that are correlated with the choice about the number of sex partners over the past twelve months and over the adult lifetime. Here, we again look at four categories of number of partners—no partners, one partner, two to four partners, and five or more partners within the past twelve months and no partners, one, two to ten, and eleven or more over the adult lifetime—and we treat these categories as distinct, with each adult choosing to have a given number of partners in each time frame. We look at the relations among the six master status variables that were introduced in chapter 1 and that were used in table 5.1 above. We also include a few more variables to see whether they have any influence on the number of sex partners.

The nature of the statistical procedure is that it estimates the relations simultaneously for all the variables and for all four categories at once, taking account of the separate and pairwise relations, and yielding an estimate of the influence of each variable holding all the others constant at their average level in the data set. It is called a *multinomial logistic statistical model*, and table 5.16 is derived from its estimation. The rows in this table are deceptively simple, but they are based on this rather complex estimation process over all the approximately 3,000 respondents. The rows here are estimates that control for all the other variables in the table; the asterisks indicate that the accompanying value is statistically different from that of the italicized row, which is the comparison group.

In table 5.16A, for example, the top row shows that 12.3 percent of men are

**Table 5.15 Percentage Reporting Extramarital Affairs**

Cohort	Men	Women
1933-42	37.0	12.4
1943-52	31.4	19.9
1953-62	20.5	14.5
1963-74	7.1	11.7
Total	24.5	15.0

Table 5.16A

Men
Women
Age 18-29
Age 30-44
Age 45-59
Not cohabiting
Cohabiting
Married
Less than HS
HS grad./some coll.
Coll. grad. or more
White
Black
Hispanic
Other
Sexual activity
Guided by religion
Not guided by religion
Virgin at 18
Not virgin at 18
Ever in jail
Never in jail
Touched before
Not touched before

Note: Dummy variables  
\*Statistically significant

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