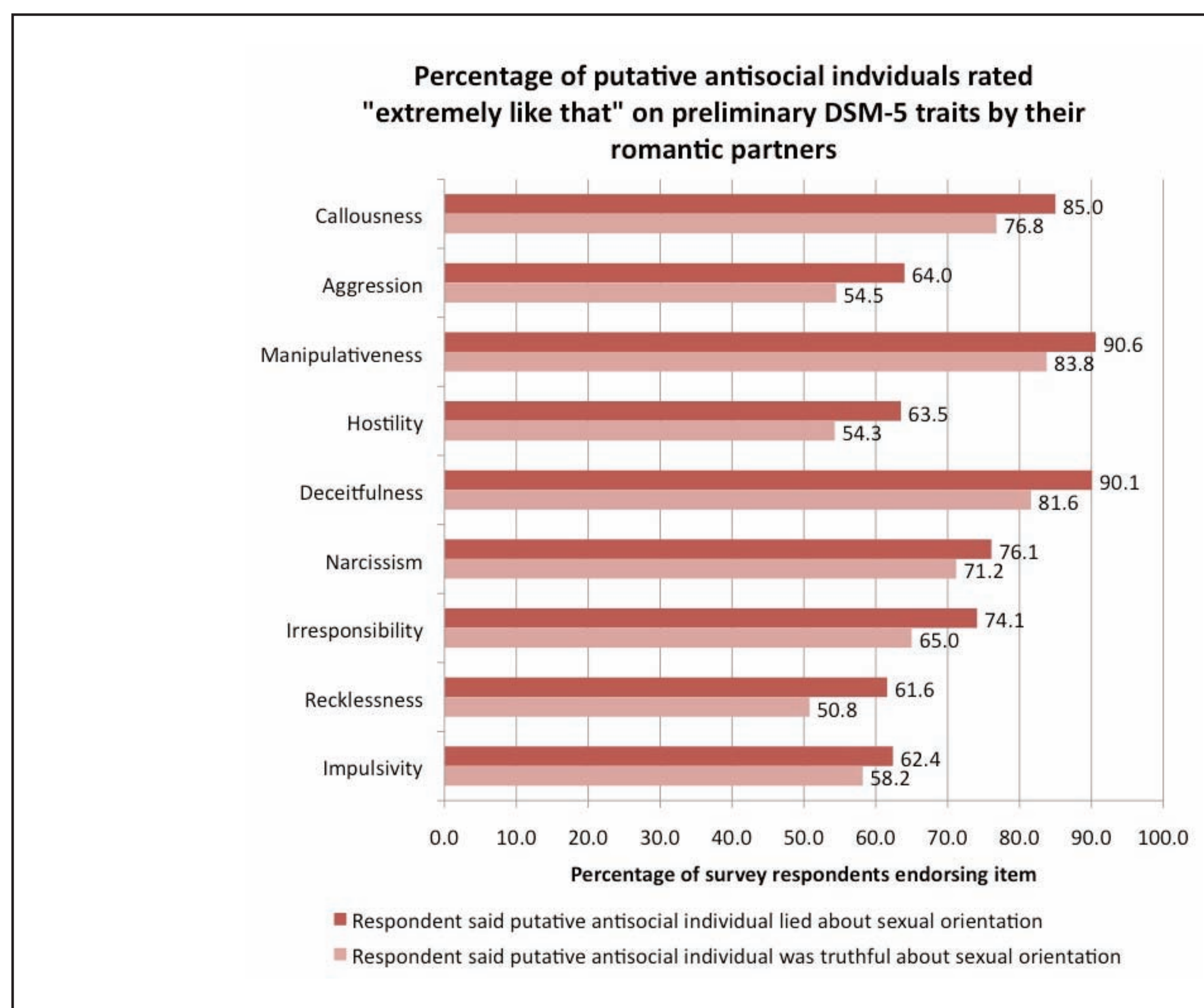


In Love with an Exploiter

Sexual Deception Correlates with Increased Harm to Romantic Partners

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Antisocial individuals who lie about their sexual orientation display more antisocial traits, more antisocial behavior, and cause more harm to their romantic partners, than those who are not sexually deceptive.

Readers of Lovefraud.com who believed they were romantic partners of putative antisocial individuals were invited to participate in an anonymous on-line survey. The objective was to determine whether they were, in fact, involved with antisocial individuals, and to gather data about the experience.

One of the questions in the survey was, "Did the individual tell the truth about his/her sexual orientation?" According to survey respondents:

- 81.5% were truthful about their sexual orientation
- 18.5% lied about their sexual orientation

This research refers to those putative antisocial individuals who lied about their sexual orientation as engaging in "sexual deception." An analysis of the data revealed that on almost every measure, sexual deception correlated with increased harm suffered by the romantic partner.

Method

An anonymous Internet survey was hosted on SurveyMonkey.com.

- Survey time frame: February 15 – April 18, 2011
- 1,352 people from around the world responded
- 77.9% completed the entire survey (1,053)

Survey respondent demographics

- 88.9% female (1,150)
- 11.1% male (144)

Sexual deception

- 8.7% of respondents reporting sexual deception were male (20)
- 91.3% of respondents reporting sexual deception were female (209)
- 90.8% of sexually deceptive individuals identified were male (206)
- 9.2% of sexually deceptive individuals identified were female (21)

Antisocial traits

The first draft of DSM-5, released February 10, 2010, included nine traits to describe antisocial personality disorder. When assessing a client, clinicians were to score each trait as follows:

- 0 – Very little or not at all like that
- 1 – Mildly like that
- 2 – Moderately like that
- 3 – Extremely like that

Survey respondents rated the individuals they were romantically involved with using the same scale. In nonforensic settings, psychopathy data derived from both self-reports and informant reports have utility in understanding the relations between psychopathic traits and externalizing behaviors (Jones and Miller, 2011).

As a group, sexually deceptive individuals were rated from 4.2 to 9.5 percentage points higher on each of the nine antisocial traits than individuals who were not sexually deceptive.

Length of the involvement

When involvements lasted nine years or less, more respondents said their romantic partners told the truth about sexual orientation.

When involvements lasted 10 years or more, more respondents said their romantic partners did not tell the truth about sexual orientation.

Behavior experienced by the romantic partner:

Sexually deceptive individuals engaged in more manipulative behavior than putative antisocial individuals who were not sexually deceptive. Survey respondents who were involved with them endorsed almost every behavior measured by the survey more frequently. Among the largest disparities:

- "Said we were soul mates" – 71.4% v. 62.2%
- "Promised to make my dreams come true" – 60.5% v. 54.3%
- "Disappeared for long periods of time" – 49.5% v. 41.2%
- "Switched love on and off" – 64.3% v. 54.7%
- "Isolated me from family and friends" – 67.6% v. 58.5%
- "Told elaborate stories about his/her past" – 75.2% v. 61.8%

Financial harm reported by romantic partners

A total of 76.1% of survey respondents lost money as a result of their relationship with the putative antisocial individuals.

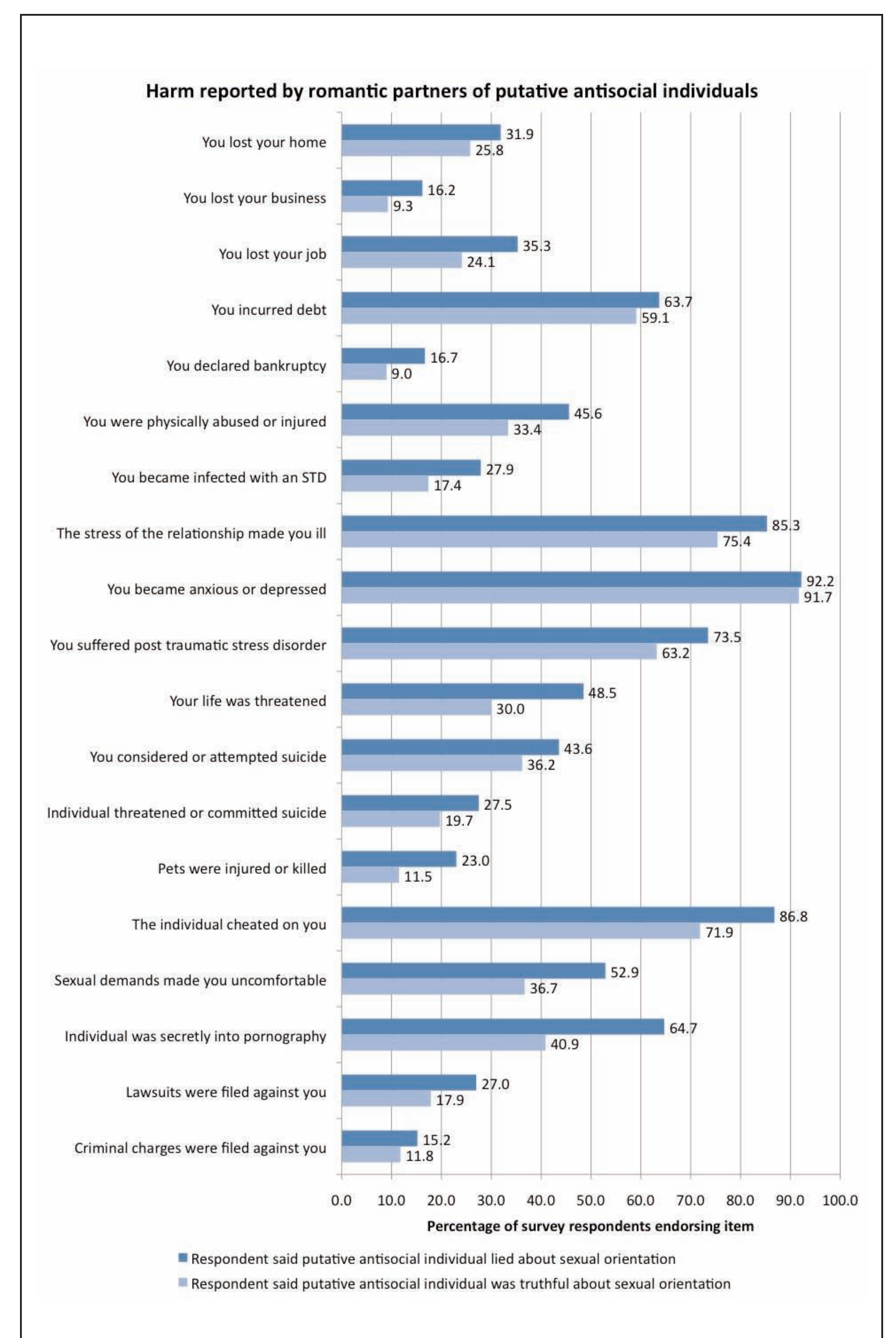
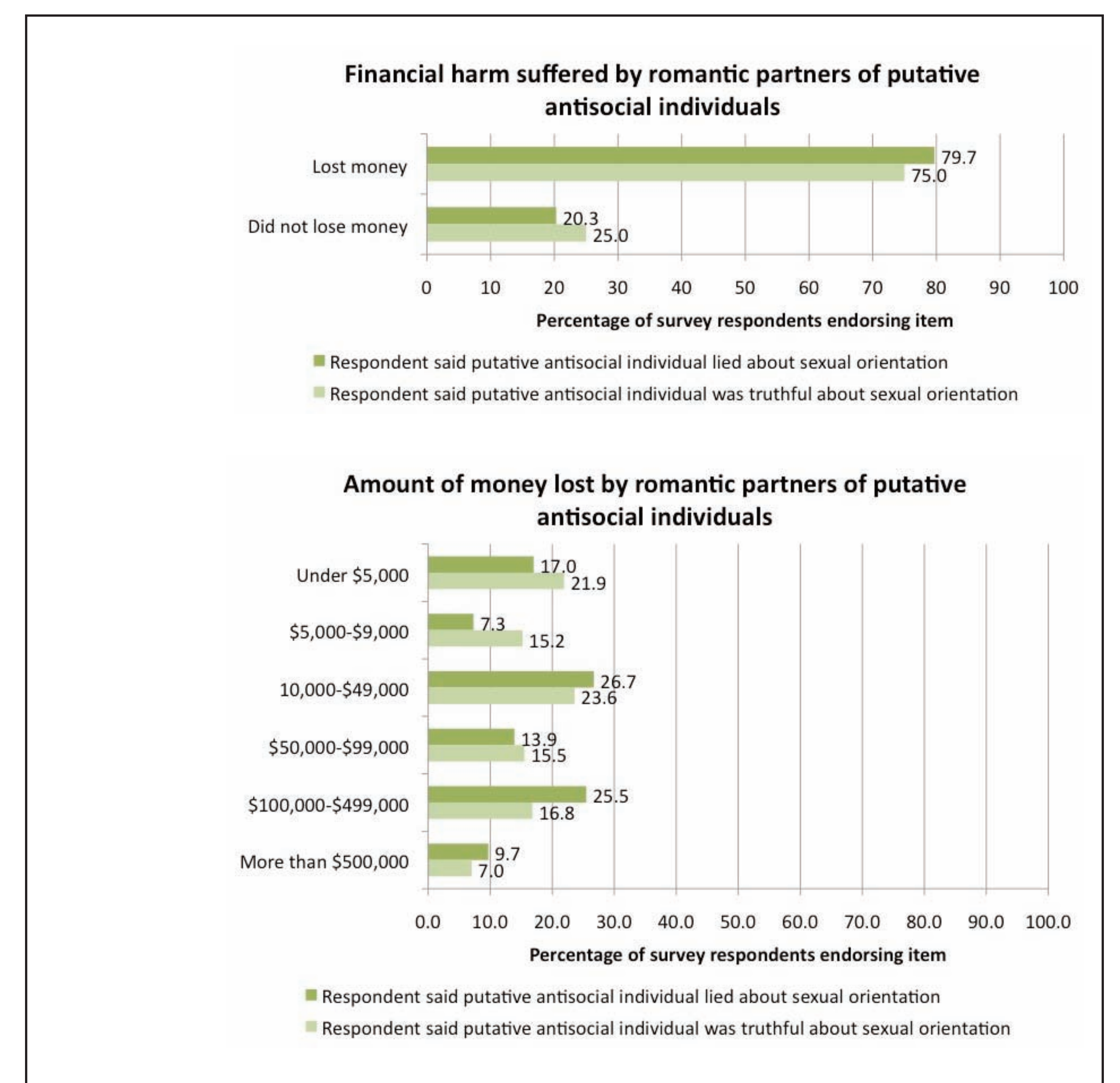
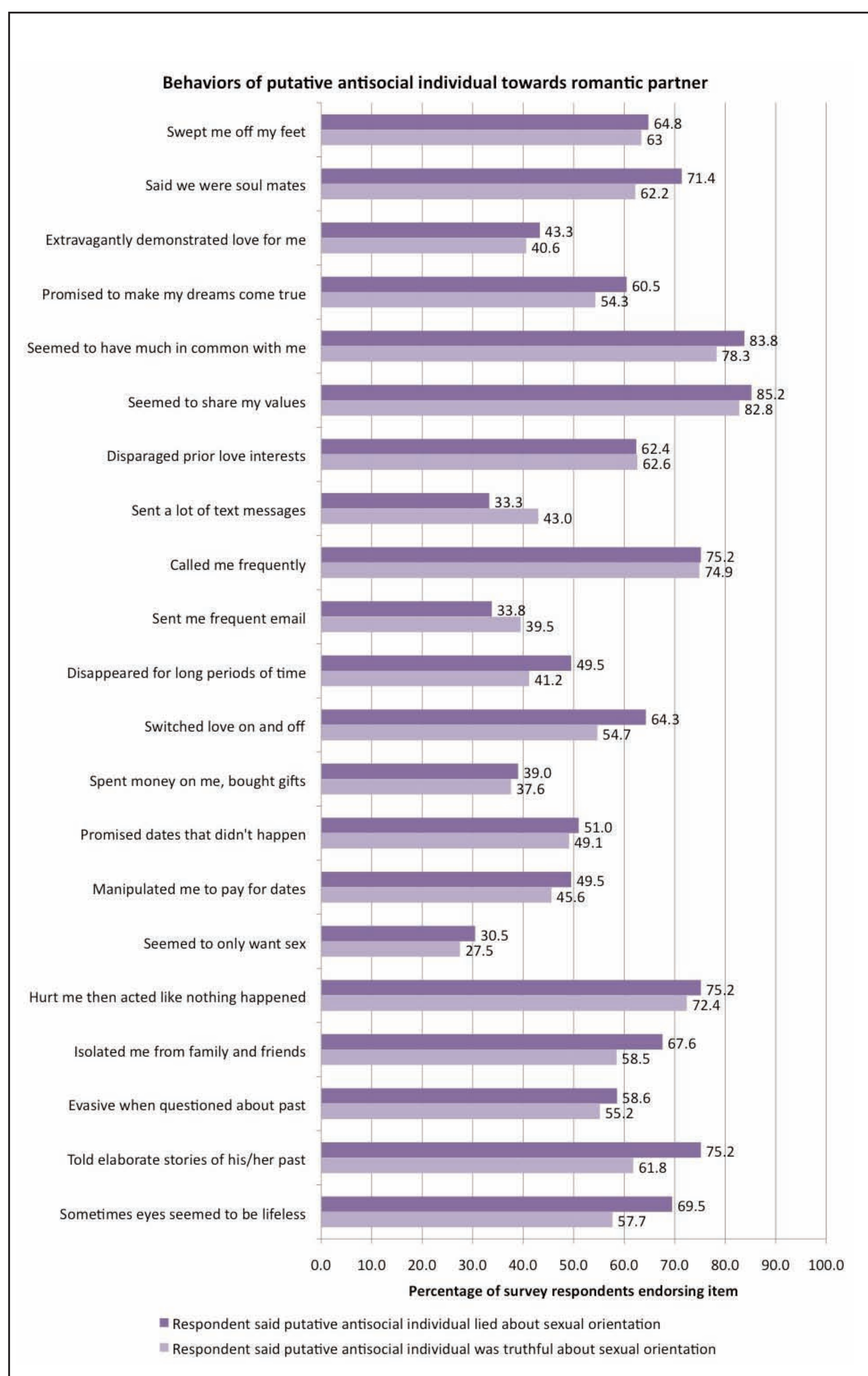
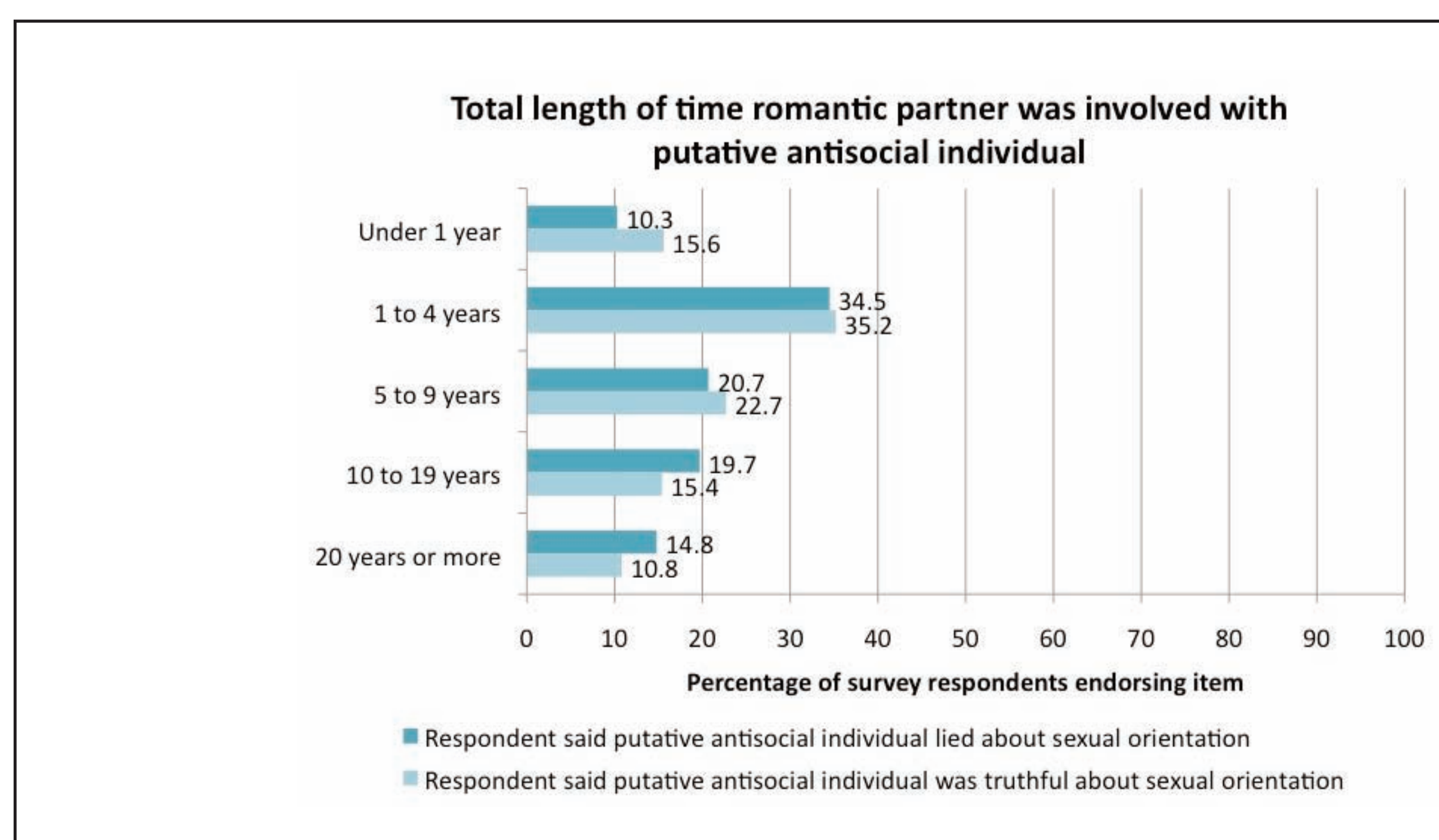
- Of those who lost money, 26.1% lost \$100,000 or more
- Respondents who lost over \$100,000 were more likely to say the putative antisocial individuals were sexually deceptive – 35.2% v. 23.8%

Additional harm reported by romantic partners

On every measure, individuals who lied about their sexual orientation caused more harm to their romantic partners than those who were not sexually deceptive. The results were particularly striking when comparing sexually deceptive vs. not sexually deceptive in regards to physical violence and sexual demands:

- "You were physically abused or injured" – 45.6% v. 33.4%
- "Your life was threatened" – 48.5% v. 30%
- "Pets were injured or killed" – 23% v. 11.5%
- "The individual cheated on you" – 86.8% v. 71.9%
- "You became infected with an STD" – 27.9% v. 17.4%
- "Sexual demands made you uncomfortable" – 52.9% v. 36.7%
- "Individual was secretly into pornography" – 64.7% v. 40.9%

All of the putative antisocial individuals caused harm for their romantic partners. Those who were sexually deceptive caused measurably more harm.



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