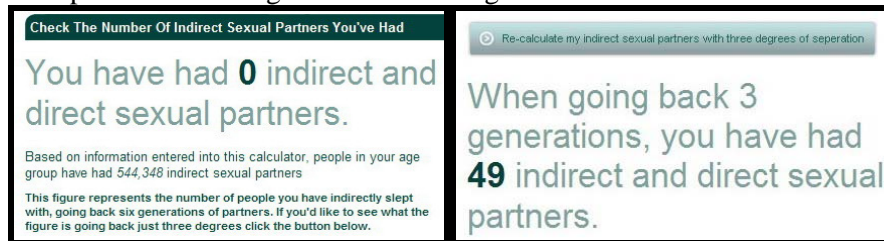


Here are some technical comments on [Lloyds Reckoner: Sex Degrees of separation](#)

1. Lloyds gives little detail on their model, the average number of partners by sex and age, whether they allowed homosexual partners, and if so, what percentage of contacts were modeled as homosexual. This lack of detail makes analysis difficult.
2. These big numbers may seem impossible. With 10 partners per person and six partners out, that's only 10 to the sixth or a million. Since the averages quoted in the article are less than 10, it seems that getting over a million partners (direct and indirect) is impossible. But a close read indicates that the six degrees refers to **just the indirect partners**. With the direct partners plus six rounds beyond that, getting over two million indirect partners is a lot easier. However to get 2.8 million requires more than eight to the seventh power.
3. Having different numbers of partners for men and women may also seem impossible. In exclusively heterosexual relationships, the averages must be the same for men and women. But, the larger number of partners among men may reflect gender bias (men exaggerate; women minimize) or greater homosexuality among men.
4. The Lloyd's reckoner may have some bugs. For a 16 year old woman with zero sexual partners, earlier versions of the reckoner calculated zero total partners after six generations, but showed 49 total partners at three generations. Go figure.



5. Lloyds may have allowed for homosexual activity by using a greater number of partners for men than for women – and making those extra partners other men. A 16 year man or woman who has slept with just one woman the same age is estimated to have 17 total sexual partners, whereas a 16 year old man or woman who slept with just one man the same age is estimated to have 3,074 total sexual partners.
6. The number of sexual partners appears to be independent of your age or sex. As expected, it depends solely on the age and sex of those you have slept with.
 - A woman that sleeps with just one man age 39 is predicted to have 2.1 million sexual partners regardless of whether that woman is 16 or 39. A person 39 years old that sleeps with one man the same age is predicted to have 2.1 million sexual partners regardless of whether that person is male or female.
 - A man that sleeps with just one woman age 39 is predicted to have 167,347 sexual partners regardless of whether that man is 16 or 39. A person 39 years old that sleeps with one woman the same age is predicted to have 167,347 sexual partners regardless of whether that person is male or female.
7. The life-time number of sexual partners by age group may decrease for the older-age cohorts. A 120 year-old woman who sleeps with just one person – a 120 year-old man – is estimated to have 84,330 total partners – far less than the 2.1 million total partners if both were 39.