

No sex please ... we're only human.

By Gill Swain.

FORGET those juicy stories of non-stop bonking in the nineties. They're a load of porkies

For many couples LIE to researchers by claiming that they have sex several times a week.

They're afraid to admit that the passion has gone out of their marriage, leaving their love-life totally limp. Couples have been fibbing like this for years. And that's not all.

Claims of extra-marital flings and gay sex have also been wildly exaggerated, say experts.

Glenn Wilson, sex psychologist at London University, said yesterday: "A high proportion of long-standing marriages become virtually sexless because the partners become so familiar with each other it would be like committing incest.

Lurid

"But they don't want anyone to think their marriage is breaking down, so they report the 'correct' figure of three times a week."

The experts have stamped on those lurid charts of non-stop lust after a survey by Chicago University

This, like January's report Sexual Behaviour in Britain, shatters the image that people are flitting from one partner to another.

Instead, it paints a picture of stay-at-homes with sex lives about as exciting as a nice cup of cocoa. It reveals that 94 per cent of people had been faithful to their partners in the past year.

And 75 per cent of married men and 85 per cent of married women declared they had never strayed.

Couples lie about their lays

Nearly 3,500 randomly-selected Americans aged 18 to 59 took part in the survey.

A third said they had sex only a few times a year or not at all.

Another third have a romp several times a month and a quarter make love two or three times a week.

Only 7 per cent said they

had sex more than four times a week.

So why have many surveys in recent years branded us as rabbits going at it non-stop?

The answer, says researcher Julia Field, lies in how are picked for the surveys.

Julia, who helped compile January's report, said that couples who volunteered to take part in them are likely to have full sex lives.

Such people cannot be taken as par for the country.

Wives

Julie and her fellow researchers got round this by quizzing a broad cross-section of people.

Only a tenth of married men and a twentieth of wives said they had been unfaithful.

BRITISH couples make love less than most other Europeans, say researchers. We average 1.9 times a week, the same as the Danes.

The Dutch lead on 2.5, followed by Austria and Switzerland on 2.4.

Italians score 2.3, the French 2.1 and Swedes and Spanish 2.0.

QUESTIONS

1. Where has this research been carried out?
2. What does the research reveal?
3. Give some reasons why couples lie about their sex life.
4. Give the name of the magazine where the truth about sex-life was said.
5. Vocabulary: sexless, couple, survey, cocoa, shatter.
6. Summarize the text in about 60 words.