

# **Lonely people prefer to stand farther away from those they love**

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A recent NIA-funded study reports lonely people are more likely to prefer greater interpersonal distances from close friends and family.

Over two experiments, close to 600 men and women were surveyed to determine how close they prefer to physically be in relation to others in their intimate, relational, and collective space (and in relation to strangers). Intimate space consisted of those they are closest to (closest family/friends and significant others), relational space included trusted friends and family, and collective space included social groups individuals identified with. Loneliness was measured using the UCLA Loneliness Scale and additional covariates including gender, marital status, anxiety and depression were collected.