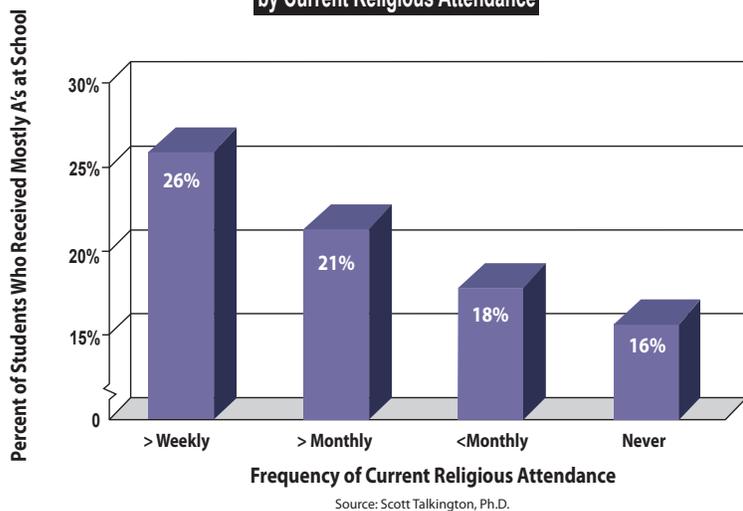




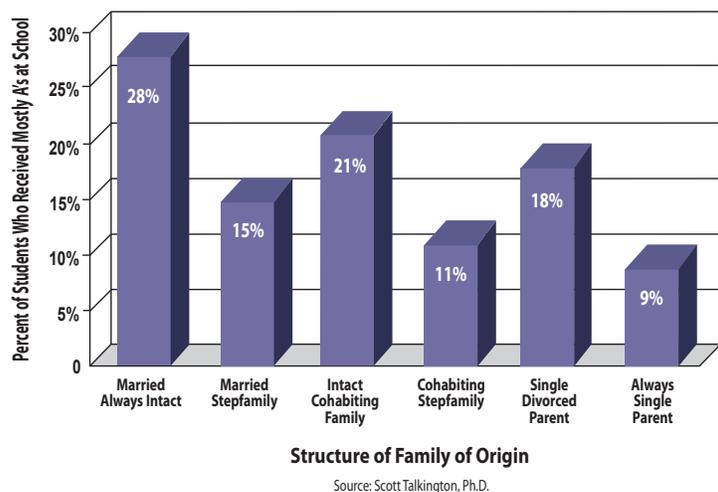
Marriage, Religion, and the Common Good – Number 100

“Likely to Receive Mostly A’s” by Structure of Family of Origin and by Current Religious Attendance

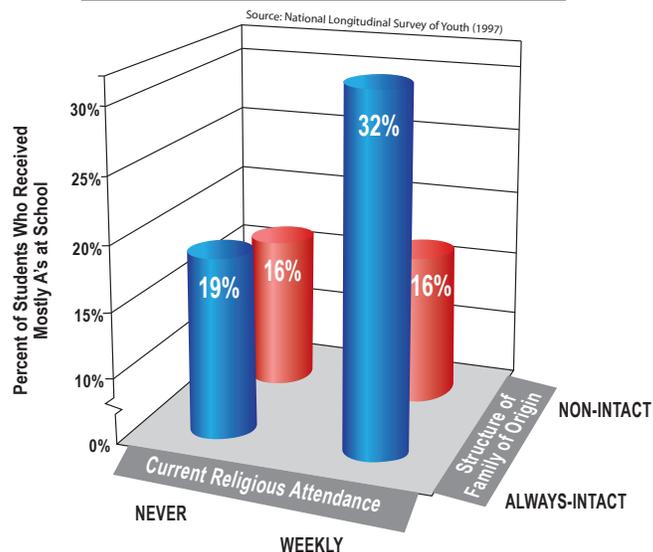
“Students Who Received Mostly A’s at School”
by Current Religious Attendance



“Students Who Received Mostly A’s at School”
by Structure of Family of Origin



“Students Who Received Mostly A’s at School”
by Current Religious Attendance and Structure of Family of Origin



Current Religious Attendance and Structure of Family of Origin Combined
Scott Talkington, Ph.D.

This chart looks at individuals who are most likely to receive A's at the extremes of four demographic quadrants.

These four quadrants are derived from combining two sets of family structures (always-intact vs. non-intact*) and two sets of religious attendance (high vs. low).

The families occupying the four corners (or four extremes) of these quadrants are:

The always-intact married family that worships weekly;

The always-intact married family that never worships;

All other family structures* that worship weekly;

All other family structures* that never worship.

(* The “all other family structures” group consists of women in the following categories: married stepfamily, cohabiting stepfamily, single divorced parent, and always single parent. In all these structures, there has been rejection between the biological father and mother, and thus the original pairing is no longer intact.)

“Likely to Receive Mostly A’s” by Structure of Family of Origin and by Current Religious Attendance

The 1997 National Longitudinal Survey of Youth shows that students most likely to receive A’s in school are those who grew up in an intact married family and who now worship at least weekly.

Description: Examining **structure of family of origin**, 28 percent of students who grew up in an intact married family received mostly A’s, followed by students from intact cohabiting families (21 percent), single divorced parent families (18 percent), married stepfamilies (15 percent), cohabiting stepfamilies (11 percent), and always single parent families (9 percent).

Examining only **current religious attendance**, 26 percent of students who worship at least weekly received mostly A’s, followed by those who attend religious services between one and three times a month (21 percent), those who attend religious services less than once a month (18 percent), and those who never attend religious services (16 percent).

Examining **current religious attendance and structure of family of origin**, 32 percent of students who grew up in an intact married family and who now worship at least weekly received mostly A’s. Only 19 percent of students who grew up in intact married families and now never worship received mostly A’s. Only 16 percent of those who grew up in other family structures and now worship at least weekly received mostly A’s, as are 16 percent of students who grew up in other family structures and now never worship.

Related Insight from Other Studies

One study showed that students who attended religious activities weekly, or more frequently, were found to have a GPA 14.4 percent higher than students who never attended religious functions.¹

Another study by Mark Regnerus, professor of sociology at the University of Texas at Austin, found that (looking specifically at math and reading scores) students who frequently attend religious services scored 2.32 points higher on tests in these subjects than their less religiously-involved peers.²

Marital stability is a form of social capital that advances educational attainment for children. Thus, children from intact families have a greater chance at doing well in school, while divorce hinders a child’s overall educational attainment.³

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1. J. L. Glanville, D. Sikkink, & E. I. Hernández, “Religious Involvement and Educational Outcomes: The Role of Social Capital and Extracurricular Participation,” *Sociological Quarterly* 49 (2008): 105–137.
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