

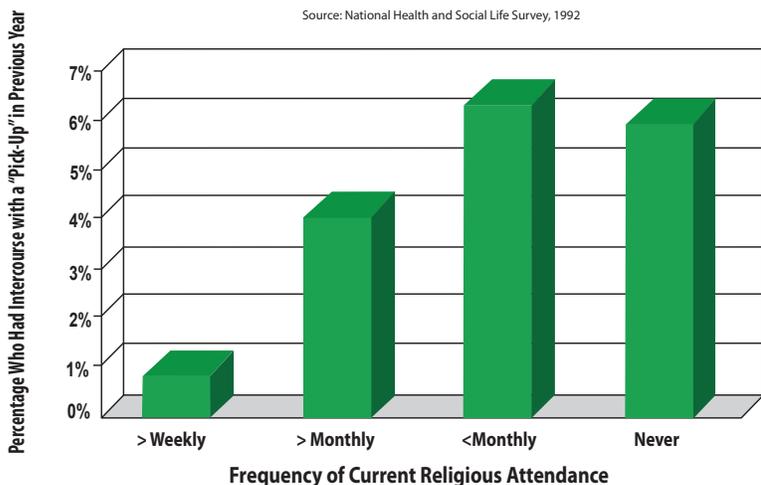
Mapping America – Number 120

“Had Intercourse with a ‘Pick-Up’ in Previous Years” by Marital Status and Religious Attendance

Percentage Who Had Intercourse with a “Pick-Up” in Previous Year

by Current Religious Attendance (adults aged 18-59)

Source: National Health and Social Life Survey, 1992

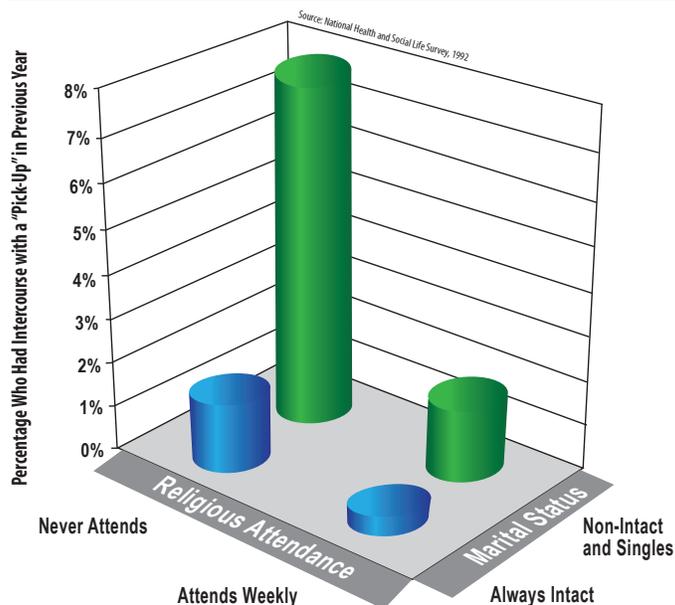


Althea Nagai, Ph.D.

Percentage Who Had Intercourse with a “Pick-Up” in Previous Year

by Marital Status and Religious Attendance (adults aged 18-59) Combined

Source: National Health and Social Life Survey, 1992

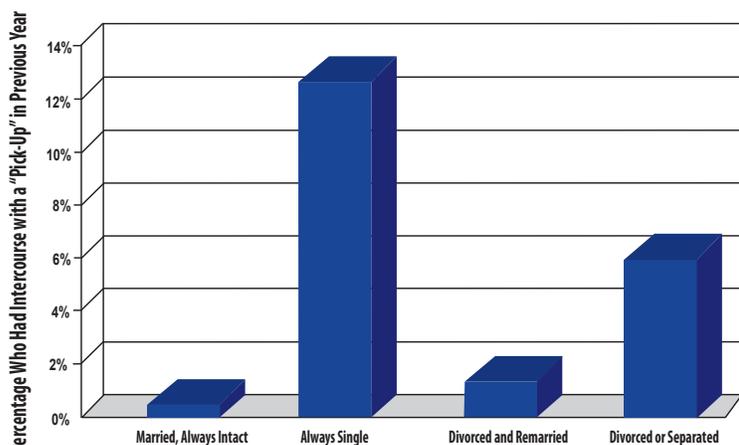


Althea Nagai, Ph.D.

Percentage Who Had Intercourse with a “Pick-Up” in Previous Year

by Marital Status (adults aged 18-59)

Source: National Health and Social Life Survey, 1992



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This chart looks at adults who have had sexual intercourse with a “pick-up” at the extremes of four demographic quadrants.

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

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

- The always-intact married individual that worships weekly;
- The always-intact married individual that never worships;
- The non-intact* or single individual that worships weekly;
- The non-intact* or single individual that never worships.

(* The non-intact group consists of divorced or separated and divorced and remarried individuals.)

Had Intercourse with a “Pick-Up” in Previous Year

The 1992 National Health and Social Life Survey shows that, of adults aged 18 to 59, those in intact marriages who worship weekly were least likely to have had intercourse with a “pick-up” in the previous year.

Religious attendance: Those who worship weekly (.8 percent) are far less likely to have had intercourse with a “pick-up” in the previous year than those who worship less than weekly but at least monthly (4 percent), those who never worship (6 percent), and those who worship less than monthly (6.4 percent).

Marital status: Those in always-intact marriages were least likely (.5 percent) to have had intercourse with a “pick-up” in the previous year, followed by those who were divorced and remarried (1.4 percent), those who were divorced or separated (6.1 percent), and those who were always single (12.8 percent).

Religious attendance and marital status combined: Those in intact marriages who worship weekly (.2 percent) are, by far, the least likely to have had intercourse with a “pick-up” in the previous year. Those in intact marriages who never worship (1.4 percent) and those who worship weekly in non-intact family structures or who are single (1.6 percent) are somewhat more likely to have had intercourse with a “pick-up,” and those in non-intact family structures or who are single who never worship (7.8 percent) are dramatically more likely to have had intercourse with a “pick-up.”

Related Insight from Other Studies

An analysis of 919 undergraduate university women found that those who identified as conservative Protestants were less likely to “hook up” (defined as “a physical encounter” without the expectation of “anything further”), but their reduced likelihood was mediated by their self-rated religiosity and frequency of religious attendance. Catholic women were more likely to “hook up.”¹ However, in its bivariate analysis, the study showed that though a larger proportion of Catholic women who attended church infrequently and did not rate themselves as particularly religious had “hooked up” than those who were religiously nonaffiliated, a smaller proportion of Catholic women who worshiped weekly and reported being very religious had done so.² It would appear that religious attendance, and not only reported religious affiliation, contributes to one’s likelihood to “hook up.”

Analysis of a sample of 459 undergraduate students at a large southeastern public university found that students who reported worshipping less frequently and students who reported little religious feeling were more likely to participate in sexual activities, such as intercourse and oral sex, within the context of a “hook up.” (A “hook up” was simply defined as “[a] sexual encounter between people who are strangers or brief acquaintances. This encounter may be limited to behaviors other than intercourse. There is no expectation of any relationship with this person beyond this sexual encounter.”)³

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1 Amy M. Burdette, Christopher G. Ellison, Terrence D. Hill, and Norval D. Glenn, “Hooking Up” at College: Does Religion Make a Difference? *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 48, no. 3 (2009): 544.

2 Amy M. Burdette, Christopher G. Ellison, Terrence D. Hill, and Norval D. Glenn, “Hooking Up” at College: Does Religion Make a Difference? *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 48, no. 3 (2009): 545.

3 Tina Penhollow, Michael Young, and William Bailey, “Relationship between Religiosity and ‘Hooking Up’ Behavior,” *American Journal of Health Education* 38, no. 6 (2007): 341.



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