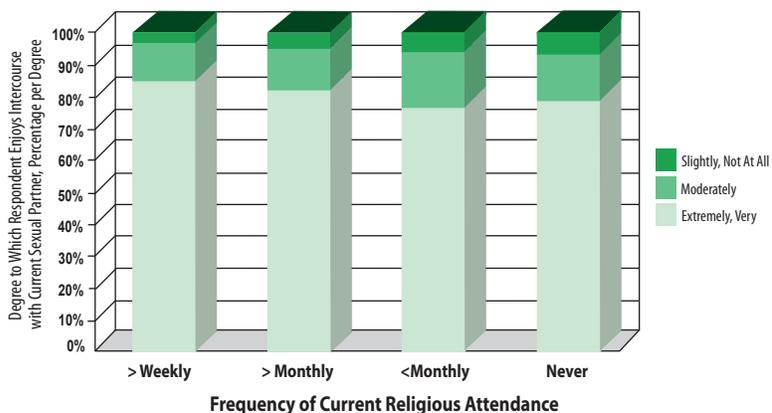


Mapping America – Number 124

“Degree to Which Respondent Enjoys Intercourse with Current Sexual Partner” by Marital Status and Religious Attendance

Degree to Which Respondent Enjoys Intercourse with Current Sexual Partner
by Current Religious Attendance (adults aged 18-59)

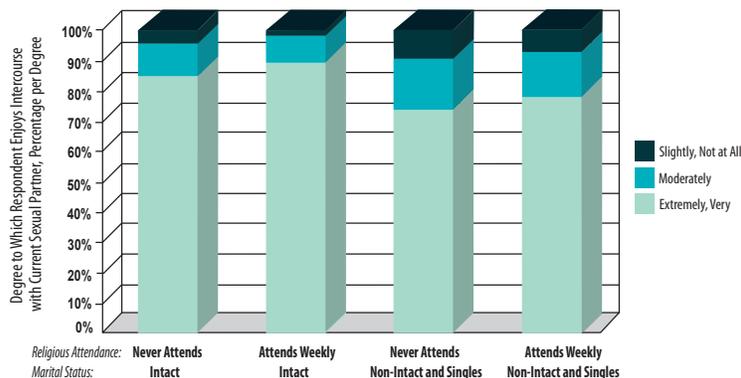
Source: National Health and Social Life Survey, 1992



Althea Nagai, Ph.D.

Degree to Which Respondent Enjoys Intercourse with Current Sexual Partner
by Marital Status and Religious Attendance (adults aged 18-59)

Source: National Health and Social Life Survey, 1992



Althea Nagai, Ph.D.

This chart looks at the degree to which adults enjoyed intercourse with their current sexual partner, based on the percentage reporting a given degree of enjoyment, 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;

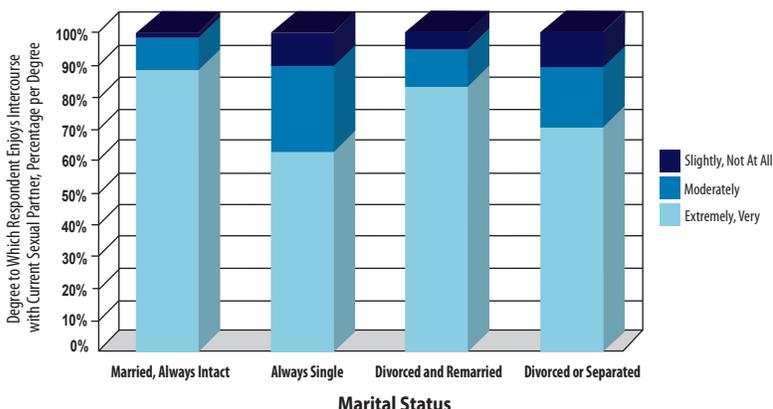
The non-intact* or single individual that worships weekly;

The non-intact* or single individual that never worships.

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

Degree to Which Respondent Enjoys Intercourse with Current Sexual Partner
by Marital Status (adults aged 18-59)

Source: National Health and Social Life Survey, 1992



Althea Nagai, Ph.D.

Degree to Which Respondent Enjoys Intercourse with Current Sexual Partner

Adults aged 18 to 59 in intact marriages who worshiped weekly were most likely to report enjoying intercourse “extremely” or “very” much with their current sexual partner (as opposed to “moderately” enjoying or “slightly” or “not at all”), according to the National Health and Social Life Survey (1992), the most detailed analysis of sexual behavior in America.

Religious attendance: Those who worshiped weekly were most likely to report that they “extremely, very” enjoyed intercourse with their current sexual partner (86.3 percent), followed by those who worshiped less than weekly but at least monthly (82.9 percent), those who never worshiped (79 percent), and those who worshiped less than monthly (77.4 percent).

Those who worshiped less than monthly were the most likely to report that they “moderately” enjoyed intercourse with their current sexual partner (17.3 percent), followed by those who never worshiped (15.3 percent), those who worshiped less than weekly but at least monthly (13.6 percent), and those who worshiped weekly (10.8 percent).

Those who never worshiped were most likely to report that they only “slightly” enjoyed or did “not at all” enjoy intercourse with their current sexual partner (5.7 percent), followed by those who worshiped less than monthly (5.3 percent), those who worshiped less than weekly but at least monthly (3.5 percent), and those who worshiped weekly (2.9 percent).

Marital status: Those in always-intact marriages had the largest percentage of persons reporting that they “extremely, very” enjoyed intercourse with their current sexual partner (88.4 percent), followed by those who were divorced and remarried (84.7 percent), those who were divorced or separated (72.4 percent), and those who were always single (64 percent).

Those who were always single had the highest percentage of persons reporting that they “moderately” enjoyed intercourse with their current sexual partner (26.7 percent), followed by those who were divorced or separated (17.8 percent), those who were divorced and remarried (10.6 percent), and those who were in always-intact marriages (10.2 percent).

Those who were divorced or separated were most likely to report that they only “slightly” enjoyed or did “not at all” enjoy intercourse with their current sexual partner (9.8 percent), followed by those who were always single (9.3 percent), those who were divorced and remarried (4.7 percent), and those who were in intact marriages (1.4 percent).

Religious attendance and marital status combined: Those who were in intact marriages and worshiped weekly were most likely to report that they “extremely” or “very” much enjoyed intercourse with their current sexual partner (90.6 percent), followed by those in intact marriages who never worshiped (85.6 percent), those in non-intact family structures or who were single and who worshiped weekly (78.9 percent), and those in non-intact family structures or who were single and who never worshiped (74.4 percent).

Those in non-intact family structures or who were single who never worshiped were the most likely to report that they “moderately” enjoyed intercourse with their current sexual partner (17.8 percent), followed by those in non-intact family structures or who were single who worshiped weekly (14.7 percent), those in intact marriages who never worshiped (11.5 percent), and those in intact marriages who worshiped weekly (8.3 percent).

Those in non-intact family structures or who were single who never worshiped were most likely to report that they only “slightly” enjoyed or did “not at all” enjoy intercourse with their current sexual partner (7.9 percent), followed by those in non-intact family structures or who were single who worshiped weekly (6.4 percent), those in intact marriages who never worshiped (2.9 percent), and those in intact marriages who worshiped weekly (1.1 percent).

Related Insight from Other Studies

One survey of 797 married men and women found that sexual satisfaction within their marriages was not linked just to their sexual interactions but was strongly associated with the other nonsexual aspects of their relationship as well, such as the couple's religious life, mutual participation in recreational activities, and the sharing of thoughts, dreams, and feelings.¹

Another study examined the link between religiosity and sexual gratification in the middle years of marriage and found that even where sexual gratification may be lacking, religiosity reduced the impact of the lack of sexual gratification on overall marital satisfaction.²

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1. Michael Young, George Denny, Raffy Luquis, and Tamera Young, “Correlates of Sexual Satisfaction in Marriage,” *Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality* 7, no. 2 (1998): 116, 120.
 2. Paul Wallin, “Religiosity, Sexual Gratification, and Marital Satisfaction in the Middle Years of Marriage,” *Journal of Social Forces* 42, no. 3 (1964): 303-309.

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