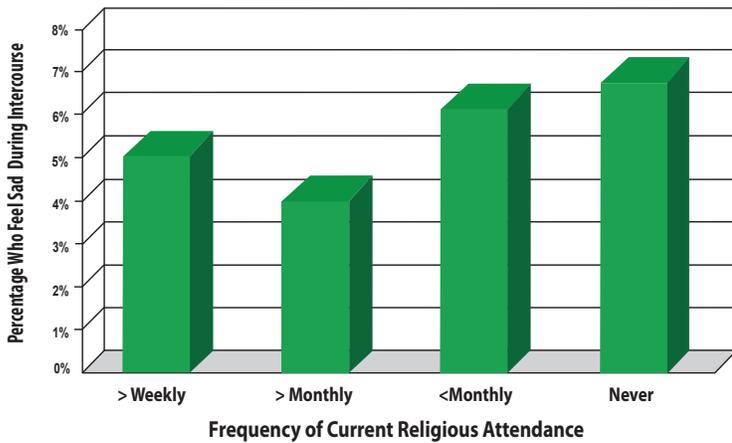


## Mapping America – Number 126

### “Feels Sad During Intercourse” with Current Sexual Partner by Marital Status and Religious Attendance

Percentage Who Feel Sad During Intercourse with Current Sexual Partner  
by Current Religious Attendance (adults aged 18-59)

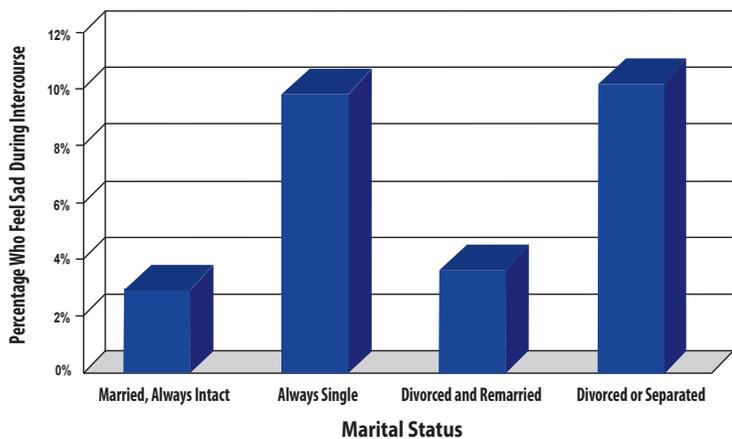
Source: National Health and Social Life Survey, 1992



Althea Nagai, Ph.D.

Percentage Who Feel Sad During Intercourse with Current Sexual Partner  
by Marital Status (adults aged 18-59)

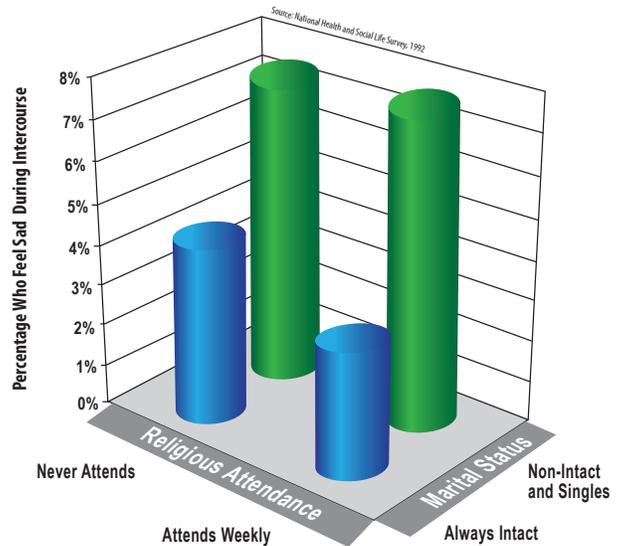
Source: National Health and Social Life Survey, 1992



Althea Nagai, Ph.D.

Percentage Who Feel Sad During Intercourse with Current Sexual Partner  
by Marital Status and Religious Attendance (adults aged 18-59) Combined

Source: National Health and Social Life Survey, 1992



Althea Nagai, Ph.D.

This chart looks at the number of adults who feel sad during intercourse with their current sexual partner 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.)

## Feels Sad During Intercourse with Current Sexual Partner

Adults aged 18 to 59 in intact marriages who worshiped weekly were least likely to feel sad during intercourse, according to the National Health and Social Life Survey (1992), the most detailed analysis of sexual behavior in America.

**Religious attendance:** Those who worshiped less than weekly but at least monthly were least likely to feel sad during intercourse with their current sexual partner (4.1 percent). As regular worship decreases, sadness increases: 5.1 percent of those who worshiped weekly felt sad during intercourse with their current partner; 6.3 percent of those who worshiped less than monthly felt sad during intercourse; 6.8 percent of those who never worshiped felt sad during intercourse.

**Marital status:** Those in always-intact marriages were least likely to feel sad during intercourse (3.1 percent). This is more prevalent in non-intact family structures and among singles: 3.7 percent of those who were divorced and remarried felt sad during intercourse; 10 percent of those who were always single felt sad; and 10.3 percent of those who were divorced or separated felt sad.

**Religious attendance and marital status combined:** Those in intact marriages who worshiped weekly were the least likely to feel sad during intercourse (3 percent), followed by those in intact marriages who never worshiped (4.3 percent). Those in non-intact family structures or who were single who never worshiped (7.4 percent) and those in non-intact family structures or who were single who worshiped weekly (7.6 percent) were most likely to feel sad during intercourse with their current sexual partner.

### Related Insight from Other Studies

One study examined the hypothesis that adults who were sexually abused either as children or as adults were more likely to develop depression later on. Sexual victimization was found to lead to depression when an individual developed a tendency to think about their sadness continuously.<sup>1</sup>

The 2001 Youth Risk Behavior Survey of 13,601 high school students found that for both males and females, feeling sad and hopeless were correlated with a history of forced sex.<sup>2</sup>

Patrick F. Fagan, Ph.D. and Althea Nagai, Ph.D.

*Dr. Fagan is senior fellow and director of the Marriage and Religion Research Institute (MARRI) at Family Research Council.*

*Althea Nagai is a visiting fellow at Family Research Council.*

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1 Michael Conway, Morris Mendelson, Constantina Giannopoulos, Patricia A.R. Csank, Susan L. Holm, "Childhood and Adult Sexual Abuse, Rumination on Sadness and Dysphoria," *Journal of Child and Abuse and Neglect* 28, no. 4 (April 2004): 393-410.

2 Donna E. Howard and Min Qi Wang, "Psychosocial correlates of U.S. adolescents who report a history of forced sexual intercourse," *Journal of Adolescent Health* 36, no. 5 (May 2005): 372-379.

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MARRIAGE AND RELIGION  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
801 G STREET NW  
WASHINGTON DC 20001  
800-225-4008  
WWW.MARRI.US

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