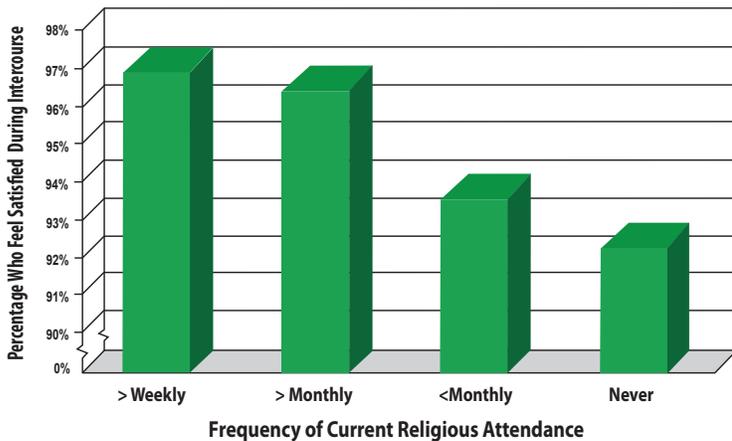


## Mapping America – Number 127

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

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

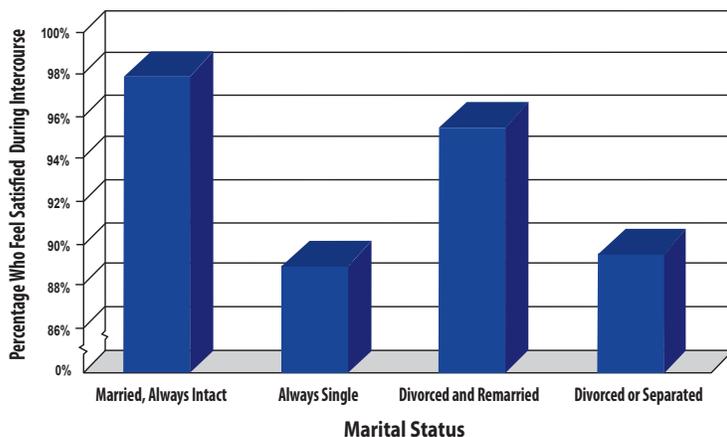
Source: National Health and Social Life Survey, 1992



Althea Nagai, Ph.D.

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

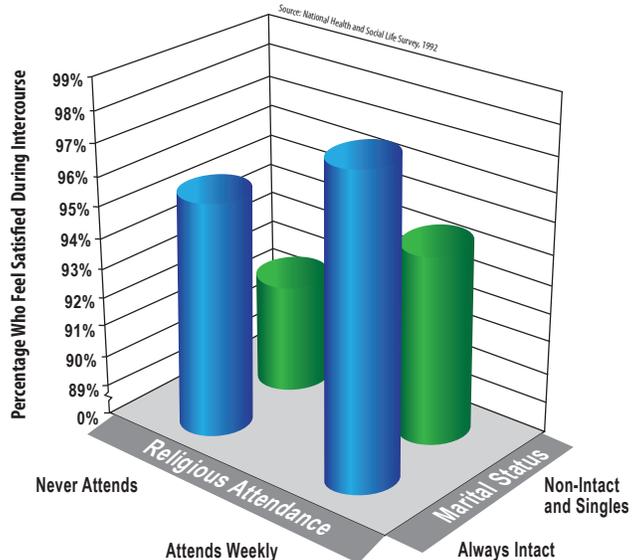
Source: National Health and Social Life Survey, 1992



Althea Nagai, Ph.D.

Percentage Who Feel Satisfied 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 satisfied in the previous year 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 Satisfied During Intercourse with Current Sexual Partner

Adults aged 18 to 59, in intact marriages who worship weekly were most likely to report feeling satisfied during intercourse with their current sexual partner, according to the 1992 National Health and Social Life Survey.

**Religious attendance:** Those who worship weekly were most likely to report feeling satisfied during intercourse with their current sexual partner (97 percent). This satisfaction decreases as regular worship decreases: 96.5 percent of those who worship less than weekly but at least monthly, 93.7 percent of those who worship less than monthly, and 92 percent of those who never worship report feeling satisfied during intercourse.

**Marital status:** Those in always-intact marriages were most likely to report feeling satisfied during intercourse (98 percent). Satisfaction is less common among non-intact family structures and those who are single: 95.9 percent of those who were divorced and remarried reported feeling satisfied; 89.7 percent of those who were divorced or separated reported feeling satisfied during intercourse with their current sexual partner and 88.9 percent of those who were always single reported feeling satisfied.

**Religious attendance and marital status combined:** Those in intact marriages who worship weekly were most likely to report feeling satisfied during intercourse (98.1 percent). Those in intact marriages who never worship (95.7 percent), those in non-intact family structures or who are single who worship weekly (94.3 percent), and those in non-intact family structures or those who are single who never worship (91.7 percent) were less likely to feel satisfied during intercourse with their current sexual partner.

### Related Insight from Other Studies

Communication within a relationship and sexual satisfaction independently predict overall marital satisfaction. When couples communicate successfully, sexual satisfaction does not greatly increase marital satisfaction. Conversely, if couples do not communicate well but are sexually satisfied, they will experience greater marital satisfaction than if they had a less satisfying sexual relationship. Thus, sexual satisfaction in a relationship may compensate for the negative effects of poor communication on overall satisfaction in a marriage relationship.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Samantha Litzinger and Kristina Coop Gordon, "Exploring Relationships Among Communication, Sexual Satisfaction, and Marital Satisfaction," *Journal of Sex and Marital Therapy* 31, no. 5 (2005): 409-424.