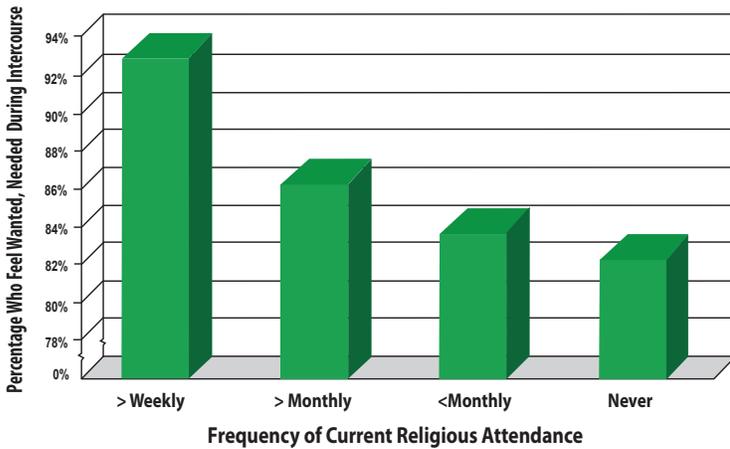


Mapping America – Number 128

“Feels Wanted, Needed During Intercourse” with Current Sexual Partner by Marital Status and Religious Attendance

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

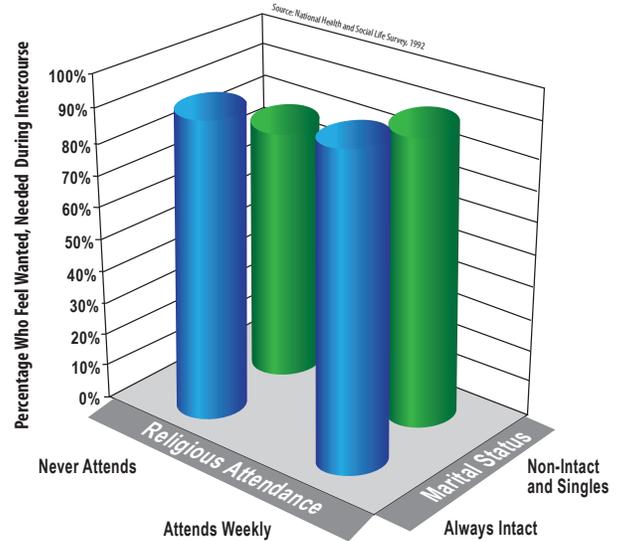
Source: National Health and Social Life Survey, 1992



Althea Nagai, Ph.D.

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

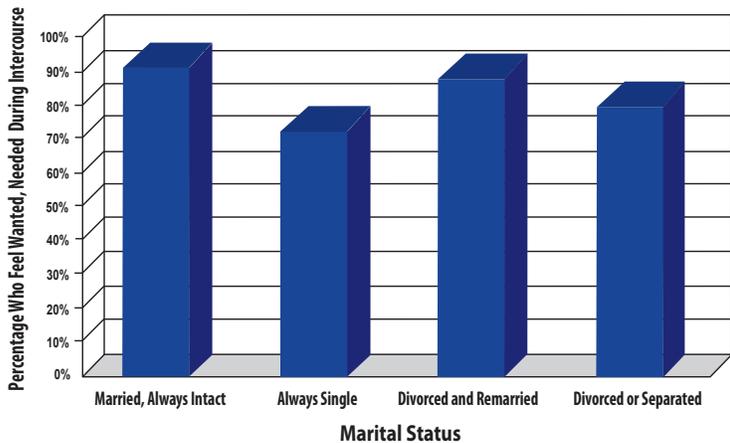
Source: National Health and Social Life Survey, 1992



Althea Nagai, Ph.D.

Percentage Who Feel Wanted, Needed 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.

This chart looks at the number of adults who feel wanted or needed 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 Wanted, Needed During Intercourse with Current Sexual Partner

Adults aged 18 to 59 in intact marriages who worshiped weekly were most likely to report feeling wanted and needed during intercourse with their current sexual partner, 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 feeling wanted and needed during intercourse with their current sexual partner (93 percent), followed by those who worshiped less than weekly but at least monthly (86.4 percent), those who worshiped less than monthly (83.8 percent), and those who never worshiped (82.4 percent).

Marital status: Those in always-intact marriages were most likely to report feeling wanted and needed during intercourse (92 percent). These feelings are less prevalent in non-intact family structures and among singles: 89 percent of those who were divorced and remarried report feeling wanted and needed; 80.8 percent of those who were divorced or separated report feeling wanted and needed and 73.2 percent of those who were always single reported feeling wanted and needed during intercourse with their current sexual partner.

Religious attendance and marital status combined: Those in intact marriages who worshiped weekly were most likely to report feeling wanted and needed during intercourse (94.9 percent). Those in intact marriages who never worshiped (90.5 percent) and those in non-intact family structures or who were single who worshiped weekly (88.7 percent) were less likely to feel wanted and needed by their current sexual partner, and those in non-intact family structures or who were single who never worshiped (78.1 percent) were even less so.

Related Insight from Other Studies

A Chinese study of 4,769 female university students found that, of the students who had had sexual intercourse, at their first intercourse 19.8 percent experienced sex under emotional pressure and 4.3 percent were violently coerced. However, religion may be protective against unwanted intercourse, as religious students were less likely to experience coercion at first sexual intercourse.¹

Forced sexual intercourse can cause or exacerbate various psychological problems. Analysis of data from the 1987 National Survey of Children found that white females 18 to 22 years of age who reported being forced to have sexual intercourse were found to have a lower internal locus of control, have higher depression scores, and need more psychological attention than those who did not report forced intercourse.²

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.

1 Yan Hong, et al., "Coerced First Sexual Intercourse Among Female Chinese College Students," *Chinese Journal of Public Health*, January 2007.

2 Brent C. Miller, Bruce H. Monson and Maria C. Norton, "The Effects of Forced Sexual Intercourse on White Female Adolescents," *Journal of Child Abuse and Neglect* 19, no. 10 (October 1995): 1289-1301.

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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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