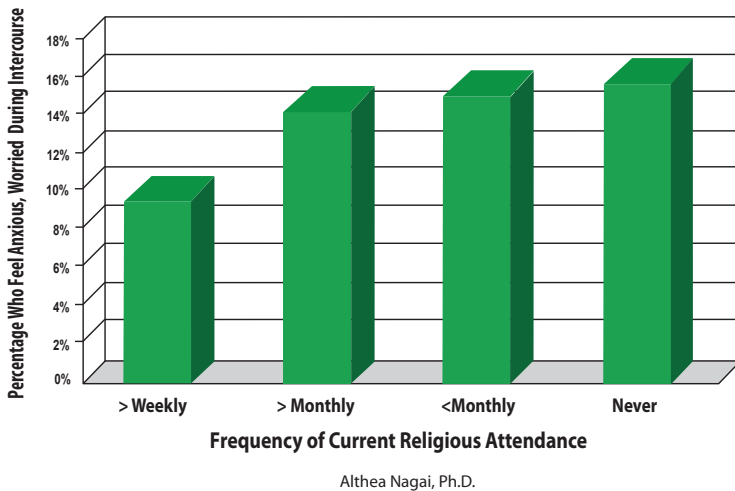


Mapping America – Number 134

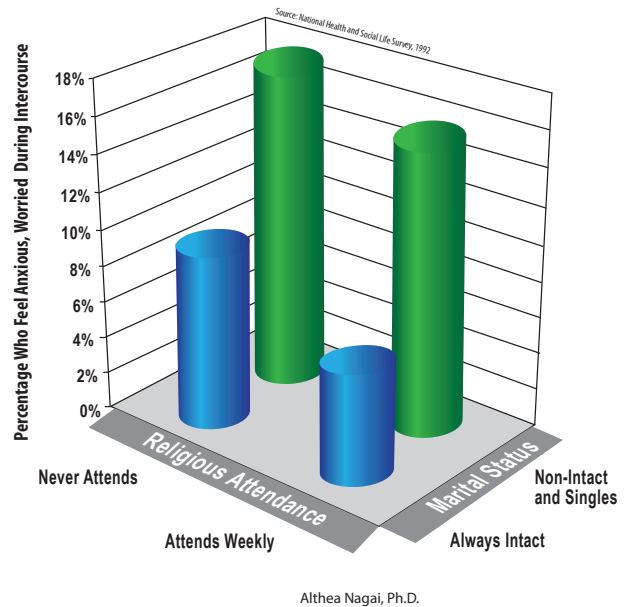
“Feels Anxious, Worried During Intercourse with Current Sexual Partner” by Marital Status and Religious Attendance

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

Source: National Health and Social Life Survey, 1992

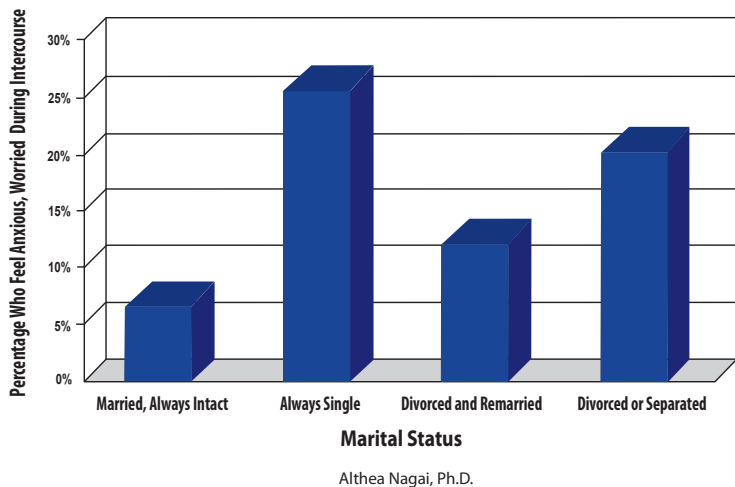


Percentage Who Feel Anxious, Worried During Intercourse with Current Sexual Partner
by Marital Status and Religious Attendance (adults aged 18-59) Combined



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

Source: National Health and Social Life Survey, 1992



This chart looks at the number of adults who feel anxious 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 Anxious, Worried During Intercourse with Current Sexual Partner

Adults aged 18 to 59 in intact marriages who worship weekly were least likely to report feeling anxious or worried 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 worship weekly were the least likely to feel anxious or worried during intercourse with their current sexual partner (9.5 percent). Anxiety during intercourse increases alongside decreased religious attendance: 14.2 percent of those who worship less than weekly but at least monthly were likely to feel anxious or worried during intercourse; 15.1 percent of those who worship less than monthly were likely to feel negative or anxious, and 15.8 percent of those who never worship were most likely to feel anxious or worried during intercourse with their partner.

Marital status: Those in always-intact marriages were the least likely to feel anxious or worried during intercourse with their current sexual partner (6.8 percent). Feeling anxious or worried during intercourse is more prevalent among those in non-intact structures and among singles: 12.1 percent of those who were divorced and remarried, 20.6 percent of those who were divorced or separated, 25.9 percent of those who were always single feel anxious or worried during intercourse with their current sexual partner.

Religious attendance and marital status combined: Those in intact marriages who worship weekly were less likely to feel anxious or worried during intercourse with their current sexual partner (5.8 percent), followed by those in intact marriages who never worship (9.4 percent). Those in non-intact family structures or who were single who worship weekly were more likely to feel anxious or worried (15.5 percent), and those in non-intact family structures or who were single who never worship were even more likely to report feeling anxious or worried during intercourse with their current sexual partner (17.4 percent).

Related Insight from Other Studies

A study of the differences in emotional response during sexual activity among sexually functional and dysfunctional men and women found that both men and women with sexual dysfunction experienced less positive emotional reactions during sexual activity. For men, sexual dysfunction led to significantly more negative emotions, including sadness and fear, compared to men without sexual problems. The results were similar among women with sexual dysfunction, who also experienced many negative emotions, including sadness, guilt, and anger.¹

Findings from the Survey of Adolescent Health indicated that, in addition to demographic factors, being religious reduced the likelihood of early first intercourse for both males and females. The anticipation of negative emotions after intercourse further decreased the probability of sexual debut for both males and females. Among girls only, those who anticipated positive emotions after intercourse had an increased likelihood of sexual debut.²

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- 1 Pedro J. Nobre and Jose Pinto-Gouveia, "Emotions During Sexual Activity: Differences Between Sexually Functional and Dysfunctional Men and Women," *Archives of Sexual Behavior* 35, no. 4 (2006): 491-499.
 - 2 Sharon Scales Rostosky, Mark D. Regnerus and Margaret Laurie Comer Wright, "Coital Debut: The Role of Religiosity and Sex Attitudes in the Add Health Survey," *Journal of Sex Research* 40, no. 4 (2003): 358-367.

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