

Theft and Crime



When looking at criminal activity, some look to the variables of race, culture, or economic well-being to better understand why individuals commit crimes. Those variables, however, miss the “[real root causes](#)”. Through data analysis, MARRI shows that several criminal acts tend to be far less prominent among those who attend church weekly and come from intact families.

Religious Practice, Theft, and Crime



Adolescents who worship weekly were the least likely to:

- Commit a theft (12.7%)
- Shoplift (6.2%)
- Be arrested (5%)
- Commit an assault (15%)



Adolescents who never attended church were the most likely to:

- Commit a theft (18.7%)
- Shoplift (10.9%)
- Be arrested (11%)
- Commit an assault (22%)

Family Structure, Theft, and Crime



Adolescents who grew up in an intact married family were least likely to:

- Commit a theft (13%)
- Shoplift (7.7%)
- Be arrested (5%)
- Commit an assault (12%)



Adolescents who grew up in a broken family were most likely to:

- Commit a theft (19%)
- Shoplift (9.7%)
- Be arrested (9%)
- Commit an assault (22%)

For a more in-depth look at these findings see our sources here:

1. [Religious Attendance and Shoplifting](#)
2. [Family Structure and Shoplifting](#)
3. [Religious Attendance and Theft](#)
4. [Family Structure and Theft](#)
5. [Ever Been Arrested](#)
6. [Ever Assaulted Someone](#)
7. [Intergenerational Links to Being Picked Up or Charged by Police: Family Structure](#)
8. [Intergenerational Links to Being Picked Up or Charged by Police: Religious Attendance](#)

