

## Religious Worship and the Frequency of Substance Abuse

Research shows both adults and adolescents struggle with substance abuse. However, data analysis from the Marriage and Religion Research Institute (MARRI) shows that adults and adolescents who attend church at least once a week struggle less with substance abuse.



- Adolescents who went to church at least once a week were 16 percent less likely than those who never attended church to have gotten drunk.
- Only 25.2 percent of adults who went to church at least once a week reported that they sometimes drank too much alcohol. While 47.3 percent of adults who never attended church reported that they sometimes drank too much alcohol.
- Minors (under 17) who attended church at least once a week were less likely to have smoked, drank, or used marijuana (16 percent) than minors who never attended church (30 percent).
- Adults who never attended church were found to be more than three times as likely to have smoked marijuana (60 percent) than those who attended church at least once a week (19 percent).
- Adolescents who attended church at least once a week were least likely to have used hard drugs (7.7 percent): Those who never attended church were most likely (18 percent).



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

1. [Religious Attendance and Drinking](#)
2. ["Sometimes Drinks Too Much Alcohol" by Religious Attendance](#)
3. ["Ever Smoked, Drank, or Used Marijuana as a Minor" by Current Religious Attendance and Structure of Family of Origin](#)
4. ["Marijuana Use" by Current Religious Attendance and Number of Extramarital Sexual Partners](#)
5. [Religious Attendance and Adolescent Use of Hard Drugs](#)

The image contains four infographics from marriResearch, each with a title and a bar chart showing data across different religious attendance levels (Never, Rarely, Sometimes, Often).

- Top Left:** "Ever Smoked, Drank, or Used Marijuana as a Minor" by Current Religious Attendance and Structure of Family of Origin. The chart shows that individuals who attended religious services frequently as minors had significantly lower rates of these behaviors compared to those who attended rarely or never.
- Top Right:** "Marijuana Use" by Current Religious Attendance and Number of Extramarital Sexual Partners. The chart indicates that higher religious attendance is associated with lower rates of marijuana use and fewer extramarital sexual partners.
- Bottom Left:** "Sometimes Drinks Too Much Alcohol" by Religious Attendance. The chart shows a clear inverse relationship, where those who attend religious services more frequently report drinking less alcohol.
- Bottom Right:** Religious Attendance and Adolescent Use of Hard Drugs. The chart shows that adolescents who attend religious services frequently are less likely to use hard drugs.