

Religious Worship and the Prevention of Sexual Harm

Religious worship encourages chastity and can help prevent sexual harm. Data analysis from the Marriage and Religion Research Institute (MARRI) shows that those who attended church at least once a week are the least likely to be sexually promiscuous.

- Thirteen to nineteen-year-olds who attended religious services weekly or more, in the year prior to the study, were less likely to have engaged in sexual intercourse (30.9%) than those who never attended church (44.9%).
- Those who never worshiped were 16 times more likely to have 11 or more sexual partners in the previous year than those who worshiped weekly. Likewise, those who never worshiped were the most likely (26.5%) to report having 11 or more sexual partners in their lifetime, while those who worshiped weekly were the least likely (10.6%).
- Teens who attended religious services weekly or more in the previous year were less likely to have had a non-romantic sexual intercourse (21.5%) than those who never attended (28.0%).
- Approximately 42% of those who worship weekly had only one lifetime sexual partner while 22.2% of those who never worshiped had only one lifetime sexual partner.



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

1. [Number of Sexual Partners in Previous Year.](#)
2. [Percentage of Adolescents Who Have Ever Engaged in Sexual Intercourse by Family Structure and Religious Worship.](#)
3. [Number of Sexual Partners in Lifetime.](#)
4. [Non-Romantic Sexual Relationships by Family Structure and Religious Worship.](#)

