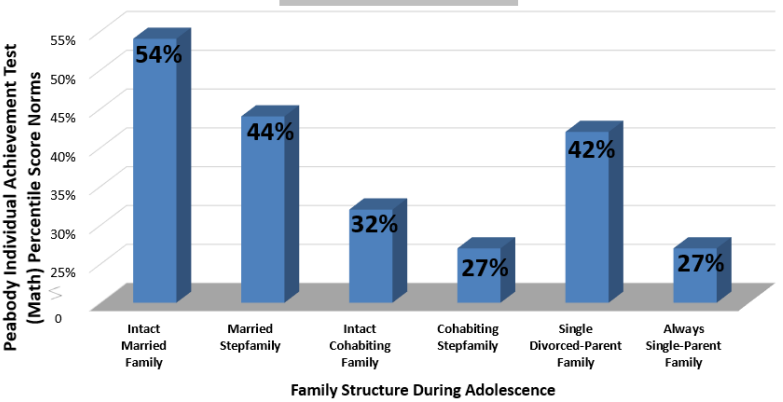


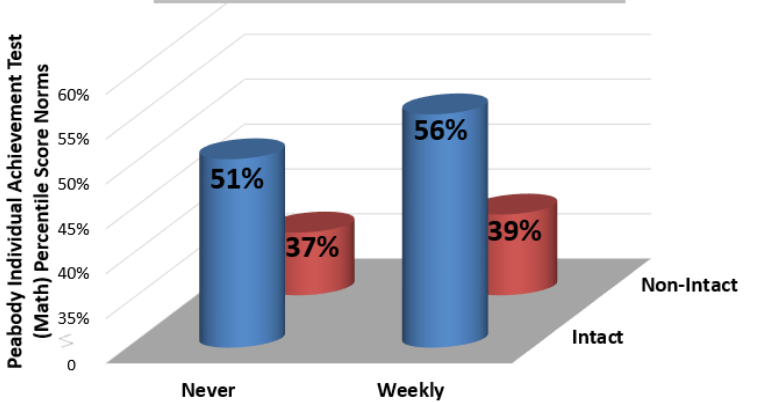
## Peabody Individual Achievement Test (Math) Percentile Score By Family Structure and Religious Practice

Peabody Individual Achievement Test (Math) Percentile Score Norms By Family Structure



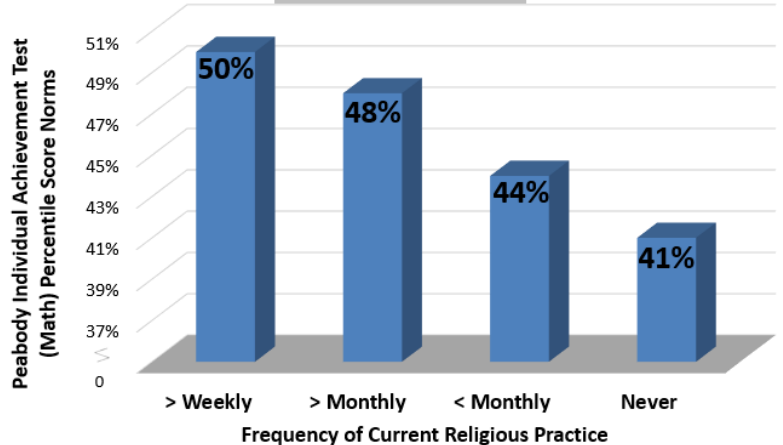
Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (1997)

Peabody Individual Achievement Test (Math) Percentile Score Norms By Family Structure and Religious Practice



Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (1997)

Peabody Individual Achievement Test (Math) Percentile Score Norms By Religious Practice



Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (1997)

*This chart looks at students' Peabody Individual Achievement Test (math) percentile score norms at the extremes of four demographic quadrants.*

*These four quadrants are derived from combining two sets of family structures (always-intact vs. all other family structures\*) and two sets of religious attendance (weekly vs. never).*

*The families occupying the four corners (or four extremes) of these quadrants are:*

- The always-intact married family that worships weekly;*
- The always-intact married family that never worships;*
- All other family structures\* that worship weekly;*
- All other family structures\* that never worship.*

*(\*The non-intact group consists of individuals in the following categories: married stepfamily, cohabiting stepfamily, single divorced parent, and always-single parent. In all these structures, there has been rejection between the biological father and mother, and thus the original pairing is no longer intact.)*

## Peabody Individual Achievement Test (Math) Percentile Score by Family Structure and Religious Practice

The 1997 National Longitudinal Survey of Youth shows that students who grew up in an intact married family and worshipped at least weekly had higher math scores on the Peabody Individual Achievement Test, an academic aptitude test administered to students in grades K-12.

**Family Structure:** Students from married, always-intact families scored in the 54<sup>th</sup> percentile on the math section of the PIAT. Students from married stepfamilies scored in the 44<sup>th</sup> percentile, and students from divorced, single-parent families scored in the 42<sup>nd</sup> percentile. Thereafter, scores experienced a steep drop-off: students in intact cohabiting families scored in the 32<sup>nd</sup> percentile, and students in cohabiting stepfamilies and in always-single parent families scored in the 27<sup>th</sup> percentile.

**Religious Practice:** Students who attended religious services at least weekly scored in the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile on the math section of the PIAT. Students who attended at least monthly scored in the 48<sup>th</sup> percentile, students who attended less than monthly scored in the 44<sup>th</sup> percentile, and students who never attended scored in the 41<sup>st</sup> percentile.

**Family Structure and Religious Practice Combined:** Students from always-intact married families who attended religious services at least weekly scored in the 56<sup>th</sup> percentile on the math section of the PIAT. Students from always-intact married families who never attended religious services scored in the 51<sup>st</sup> percentile. Students from all other family structures had drastically lower scores: students from all other family structures who attended religious services at least weekly scored in the 39<sup>th</sup> percentile, and students from all other family structures who never attended religious services scored in the 37<sup>th</sup> percentile.

**Related Insights from Other Studies:** A study by Professor William H. Jenyes of California State University, Long Beach, found that “the influence of parental involvement overall [was] significant for secondary school children. Parental involvement as a whole affect[ed] all the academic variables under study.” The academic variables included in the study were: standardized tests, grades, teacher ratings, “academic attitudes and behaviors,” and a general measure for academic achievement. Parental involvement affected both white and minority children.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, a study of rural adolescents found that students who reported greater religious attendance had higher grades.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> William H. Jenyes, “The Effects of Black and Hispanic 12th Graders Living in Intact Families and being Religious on their Academic Achievement,” *Urban Education* 38.1 (2003): 35.

<sup>2</sup> Alyssa S. Milot and Alison Bryant Ludden, “The Effects of Religion and Gender on Well-being, Substance use, and Academic Engagement among Rural Adolescents,” *Youth & Society* 40.3 (2009): 413.