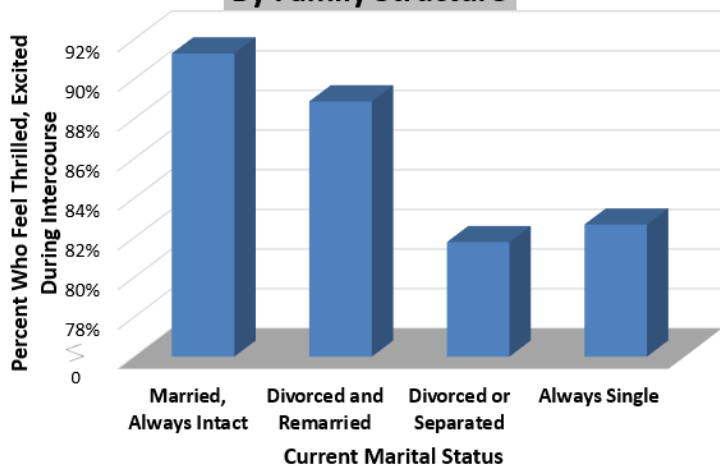


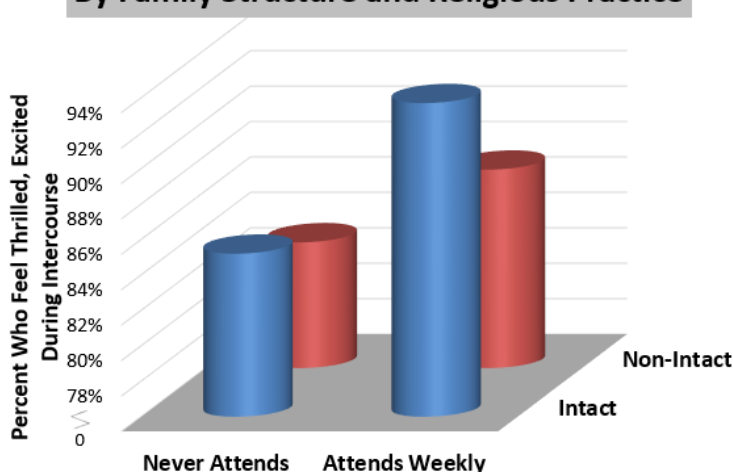
## Feels Thrilled, Excited During Sexual Intercourse By Family Structure and Religious Practice

Feels Thrilled, Excited During Sexual Intercourse  
By Family Structure



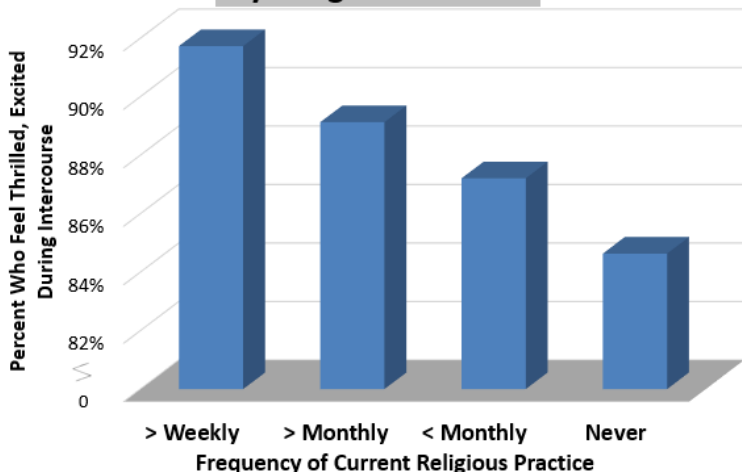
Source: National Health and Social Life Survey, 1992

Feels Thrilled, Excited During Sexual Intercourse  
By Family Structure and Religious Practice



Source: National Health and Social Life Survey, 1992

Feels Thrilled, Excited During Sexual Intercourse  
By Religious Practice



Source: National Health and Social Life Survey, 1992

This chart looks at adults who feel thrilled or excited 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 (never vs. weekly).

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 Thrilled, Excited During Sexual Intercourse by Family Structure and Religious Practice

The 1992 National Health and Social Life Survey shows that, of adults aged 18 to 59, those in intact marriages who worshipped weekly were most likely to report feeling thrilled and excited during intercourse with their current sexual partner.

**Family Structure:** Those in always-intact marriages were most likely (91.3 percent) to report feeling thrilled and excited during intercourse with their current sexual partner, followed by those who were divorced and remarried (88.9 percent), those who were always single (82.7 percent), and those who were divorced or separated (81.8 percent).

**Religious Practice:** Those who worshipped weekly at the time of the survey were most likely to report feeling thrilled and excited during intercourse with their current sexual partner (91.7 percent), followed by those who worshipped less than weekly but at least monthly (89.1 percent), those who worshipped less than monthly (87.2 percent), and those who never worshipped (84.6 percent).

**Family Structure and Religious Practice Combined:** Those in intact marriages who worshipped weekly (93.7 percent) were most likely to report feeling thrilled and excited during intercourse with their current sexual partner. Those in non-intact family structures and singles who worshipped weekly (87.2 percent), those in intact marriages who never worshipped (85.2 percent), and those in non-intact family structures and singles who never worshipped (83.1 percent) were less likely to feel thrilled and excited.

**Related Insights from Other Studies:** Married men and women report the most sexual pleasure and fulfillment<sup>1</sup> and have more enjoyable sexual intercourse more often.<sup>2</sup> Among healthy senior citizens aged 80 to 102, married men and women are more likely to engage in and enjoy sexual activity and intercourse.<sup>3</sup> Very religious women report greater satisfaction in sexual intercourse with their husbands than do moderately religious or non-religious women.<sup>4</sup>

Patrick F. Fagan, Ph.D. and Althea Nagai, Ph.D.

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<sup>1</sup> Robert T. Michael et al., *Sex in America: A Definitive Survey* (Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1994), 124-129; Edward O. Laumann et al., *The Social Organization of Sexuality: Sexual Practices in the United States* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1994), 364, table 10.5; Andrew Greeley, *Faithful Attraction: Discovering Intimacy, Love and Fidelity in American Marriage* (New York: Tom Doherty Association, 1991), see chapter 6. As cited in Glenn T. Stanton, "Why Marriage Matters." Available at <http://www.ampartnership.org/resourcecenter/news/89-why-marriage-matters.html> (accessed July 27, 2011).

<sup>2</sup> Linda J. Waite and Maggie Gallagher, *The Case for Marriage: Why Married People are Happier, Healthier, and Better off Financially*. As cited by Richard Niolon. Available at [http://successfulesingles.com/media\\_articles\\_files/The%20Case%20for%20Marriage:%20Why%20Married%20People%20Are%20Happier,%20Healthier,%20and%20Better%20off%20Financially.pdf](http://successfulesingles.com/media_articles_files/The%20Case%20for%20Marriage:%20Why%20Married%20People%20Are%20Happier,%20Healthier,%20and%20Better%20off%20Financially.pdf) (accessed 27 July 2011).

<sup>3</sup> Judy G. Bretschneider and Norma L. McCoy, "Sexual Interest and Behavior in Healthy 80- to 102-Year-Olds," *Archives of Sexual Behaviors* 17, no. 2 (1988): 125.

<sup>4</sup> Carol Tavris and Susan Sadd, *The Redbook Report on Female Sexuality* (New York: Delacorte Press, 1977).