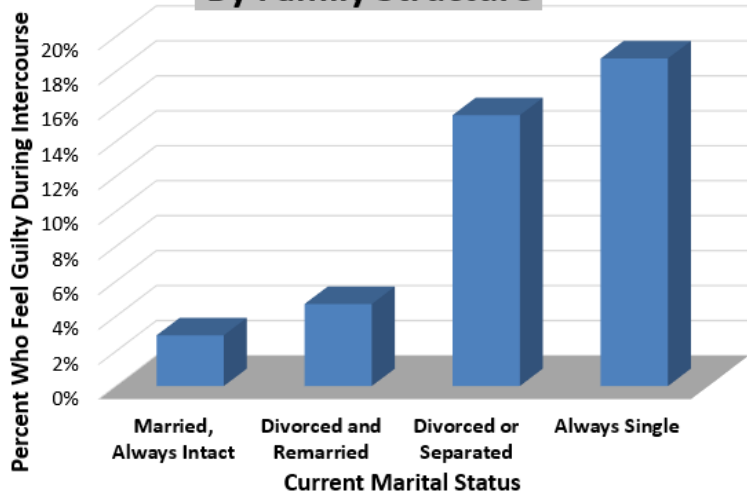


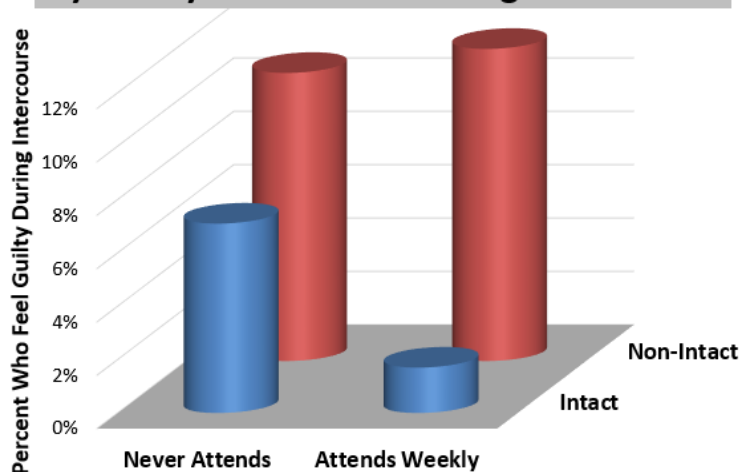
Feels Guilty During Sexual Intercourse By Family Structure and Religious Practice

Feels Guilty During Sexual Intercourse
By Family Structure



Source: National Health and Social Life Survey, 1992

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Source: National Health and Social Life Survey, 1992

This chart looks at adults who feel guilty during intercourse with their current sexual partner at the extremes of four demographic quadrants.

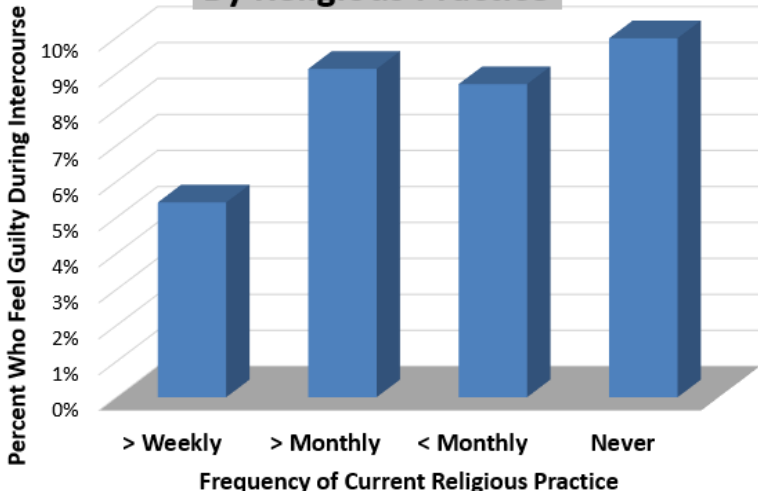
These four quadrants are derived from combining two sets of marital statuses (always-intact vs. non-intact and singles) and two sets of religious attendance (high vs. low).*

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 Guilty During Sexual Intercourse
By Religious Practice



Source: National Health and Social Life Survey, 1992

Feels Guilty 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 at the time of the survey were least likely to feel guilty during intercourse with their current sexual partner.

Family Structure: Those in always-intact marriages were least likely (2.9 percent) to feel guilty during intercourse with their current sexual partner, followed by those who were divorced and remarried (4.7 percent), those who were divorced or separated (15.5 percent), and those who were always single (18.7 percent).

Religious Practice: Those who worshipped weekly at the time of the survey were least likely to feel guilty during intercourse with their current sexual partner (5.4 percent), followed by those who worshipped less than monthly (8.7 percent), those who worshipped less than weekly but at least monthly (9.1 percent), and those who never worshipped (10 percent).

Family Structure and Religious Practice Combined: Those in intact marriages who worshipped weekly were much less likely to feel guilty during intercourse with their current sexual partner (1.7 percent), followed by those in intact marriages who never worshipped (7.1 percent). Those in non-intact family structures and singles who never worshipped (10.8 percent) and those in non-intact family structures and singles who worshipped weekly (11.7 percent) were most likely to feel guilty.

Related Insights from Other Studies: Couples in intact marriages were least likely to have committed adultery.¹ This may contribute to the fact that they were the least likely to feel guilty during intercourse with their current partners. Furthermore, the incidence of adultery was lowest among those who worship weekly (12.4 percent), compared to those who worshipped less than weekly but at least monthly (17.1 percent), less than monthly (20.6 percent), or never (24.8 percent).²

Analysis of always-single undergraduate males and females found that those “predisposed to respond with guilt over sex” (those it classified as “high-guilt”) were less likely to participate in more intimate sexual activity.³ High-guilt undergraduate men cited moral beliefs (among other reasons) as their rationale for not participating in intercourse more than “low-guilt” undergraduate men, and moral belief was the reason for nonparticipation that primarily divided high-guilt and low-guilt undergraduate women (high-guilt women were reported far more often that they believed various sexual behaviors to be wrong than low-guilt women).⁴

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¹ Patrick F. Fagan and Althea Nagai, “Adultery by Marital Status.” Available at <http://www.frc.org/mappingamerica/mapping-america-74-adultery-by-marital-status>. Accessed August 26, 2011.

² Marriage and Religion Research Institute, “The Benefits of Religious Worship: Positive Outcomes Associated with Weekly Worship,” (2011): 8. Available at www.marri.us/benefits-religious-worship. Accessed July 3, 2012.

³ Donald L. Mosher and Herbert J. Cross, “Sex Guilt and Premarital Sexual Experiences of College Students,” *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology* 36, no. 1 (1971): 30.

⁴ Donald L. Mosher and Herbert J. Cross, “Sex Guilt and Premarital Sexual Experiences of College Students,” *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology* 36, no. 1 (1971): 31.