

Mapping America Religious Practice

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About the Mapping America Project

The *Mapping America Project* of the Marriage and Religion Research Institute (MARRI) draws data from federal surveys to map the demographic behaviors of Americans based on their family structure, frequency of religious practice, and a combination of the two. The federal surveys used to graph these national behaviors include the General Social Survey, the Adolescent Health Survey, the National Survey of Children’s Health, the National Survey of Family Growth, and the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth.

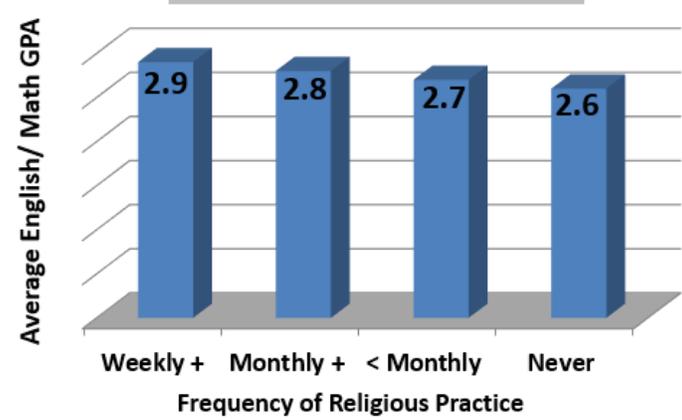




Education: Achievement

School Performance in English and Math By Religious Practice

Average GPA in English and Math (Combined)
By Religious Practice



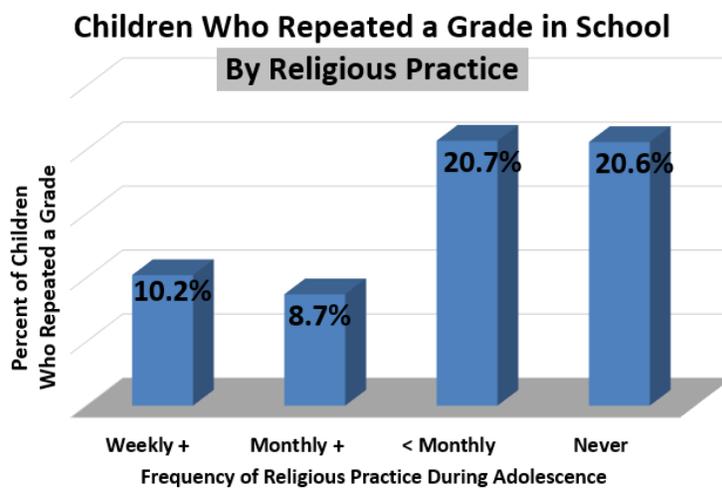
Source: Patrick Fagan, Kirk A. Johnson, and Jonathan Butcher, *A Portrait of Family and Religion in America*, The Heritage Foundation, 2006, chart 20, based on data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health.

Religious Practice: Teenagers who attended religious activities weekly or more had the highest average combined GPA for English and Math (2.9). Those who never attended religious activities had the lowest (2.6). In between were those who attended a couple of times per month (2.8) and those who attended a few times a year (2.7).

These charts draw on a large national sample (16,000) from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health. This work was done by the author in cooperation with former colleagues at The Heritage Foundation.

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Children Who Repeated a Grade in School By Religious Practice

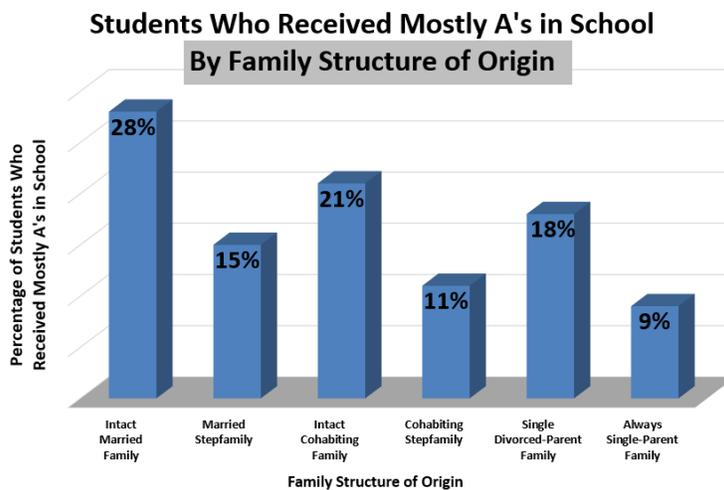


Source: National Center for Health Statistics in the National Survey of Children's Health (2003)

Religious Practice: Children who attended religious services one to three times a month and those who attended every week were only half as likely to have ever repeated a grade in school as those who attended less than once a month or not at all. The respective rates of grade repetition found in the survey were 10.2 percent for those attending weekly, 8.7 percent for those attending at least monthly but less than weekly, 20.7 percent for those attending less than once a month, and 20.6 percent for those who did not attend at all in the last year.

These charts draw on data collected by the National Center for Health Statistics in the National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) in 2003. The data sample consisted of parents of 102,353 children and teens in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. 68,996 of these children and teens were between six and 17 years old, the age group that was the focus of the study. The survey sample in this age range represented a population of nearly 49 million young people nationwide.

Students Who Received Mostly A's in School By Family Structure

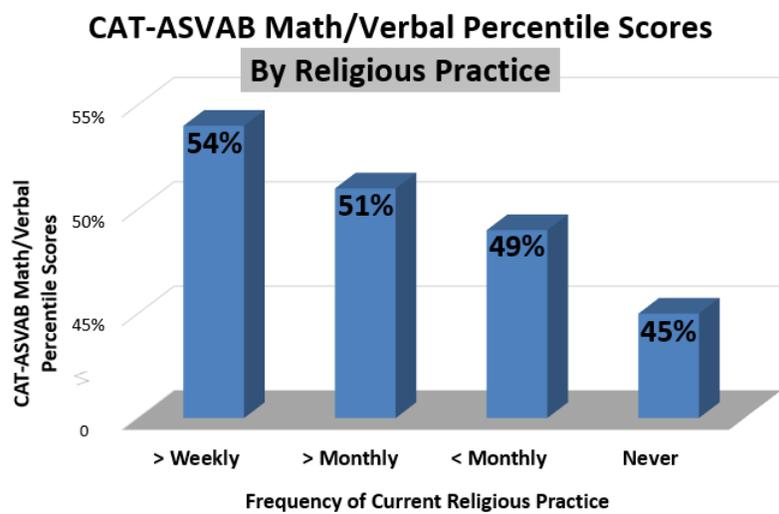


Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (1997)

Family Structure: According to the 1997 National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, 28 percent of students who grew up in an intact married family received mostly A's, followed by students from intact cohabiting families (21 percent), single divorced parent families (18 percent), married stepfamilies (15 percent), cohabiting stepfamilies (11 percent), and always single parent families (9 percent).¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (1997).

CAT-ASVAB Math/Verbal Percentile Scores By Religious Practice

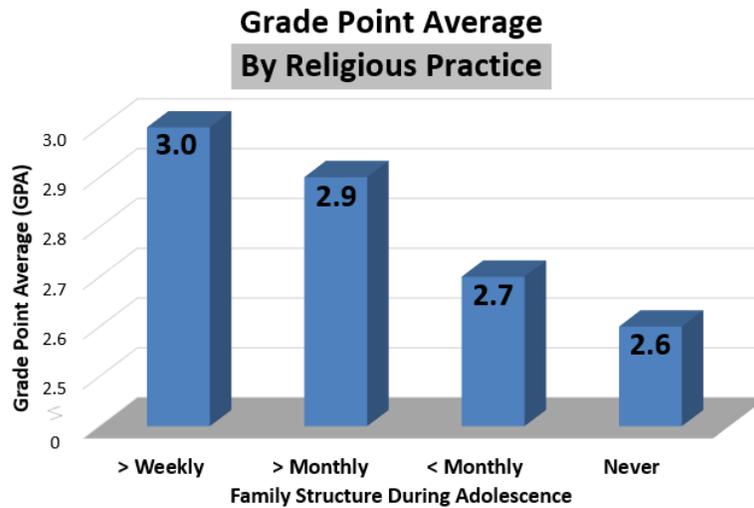


Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (1997)

Religious Practice: Children who attended religious services at least weekly at the time of the survey scored in the 54th percentile, those who attended at least monthly scored in the 51st percentile, those who attended less than monthly scored in the 49th percentile, and those who never attended religious services scored in the 45th percentile. ¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (1997).

Grade Point Average By Religious Practice



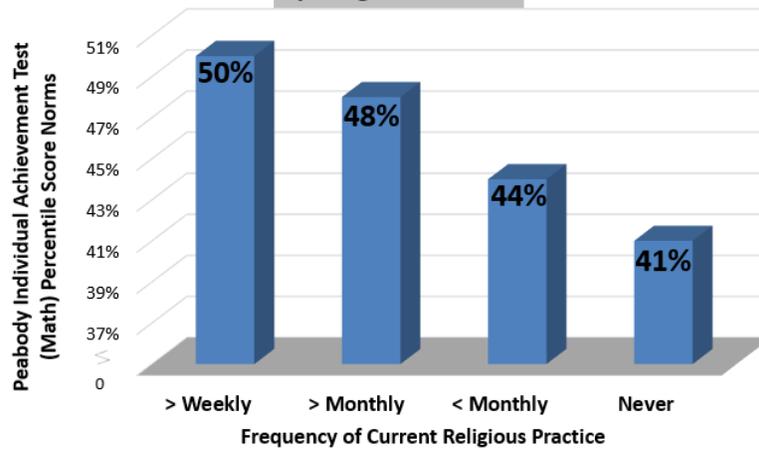
Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (1997)

Religious Practice: Students who attended religious services at least weekly had an average GPA of 3.0. Those who attended at least monthly (2.9), those who attended less than monthly (2.7), and those who never attended religious services (2.6) had lower average GPAs than students who attended at least weekly.¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (1997).

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

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



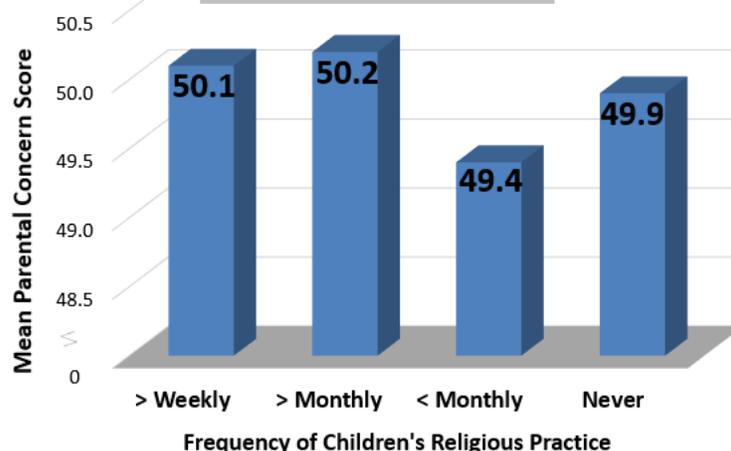
Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (1997)

Religious Practice: Students who attended religious services at least weekly scored in the 50th percentile on the math section of the PIAT. Students who attended at least monthly scored in the 48th percentile, students who attended less than monthly scored in the 44th percentile, and students who never attended scored in the 41st percentile. ¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (1997).

Parental Concern for Children's Achievement By Religious Practice

Parental Concern for Children's Achievement
By Religious Practice



Source: National Survey of Children's Health (2003)

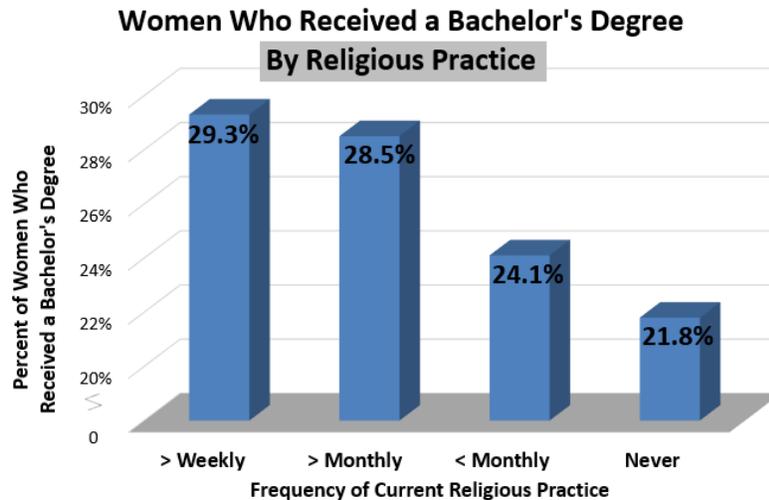
Religious Practice: According to the National Survey of Children's Health, children who attended religious services less than once a month had parents with the lowest parental concerns score (49.4); children who never attended religious services had parents with a parental concerns score of 49.9; children who attended religious services at least weekly had parents with a parental concerns score of 50.1; and children who worshipped one to three times a month had parents with the highest parental concerns score (50.2).

These charts draw on data collected by the National Center for Health Statistics in the National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) in 2003. The data sample consisted of parents of 102,353 children and teens in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. 68,996 of these children and teens were between six and 17 years old, the age group that was the focus of the study. The survey sample in this age range represented a population of nearly 49 million young people nationwide.



Education: Attainment

Women Who Received a Bachelor's Degree By Religious Practice



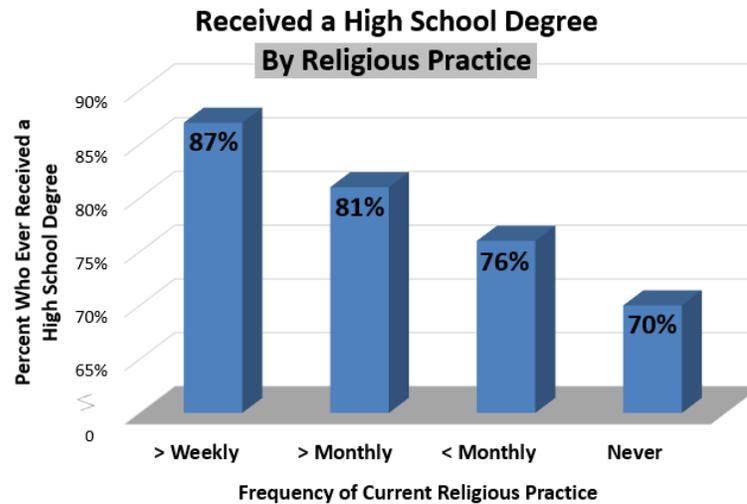
Source: National Survey of Family Growth (2002)

Religious Practice: Based on the National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 6, 29.3 percent of women¹ aged 35-44 who worshipped at least weekly attained a bachelor's degree, followed by those who attended religious services between one and three times a month (28.5 percent), those who attended religious services less than once a month (24.1 percent), and those who never attended religious services (21.8 percent).²

¹ Whereas the present family structure data and combined religious attendance/family structure data include mothers only, the religious attendance data include *all* women between the ages of 35 and 44 in the sample. We realize these charts would have more value if all three charts drew from the same population set, but the difference was only noted after the data was in.

² These charts draw on data collected by the National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 6 (2002). The sample consists of women between the ages of 35 and 44 and numbers 2,479.

Received a High School Degree By Religious Practice

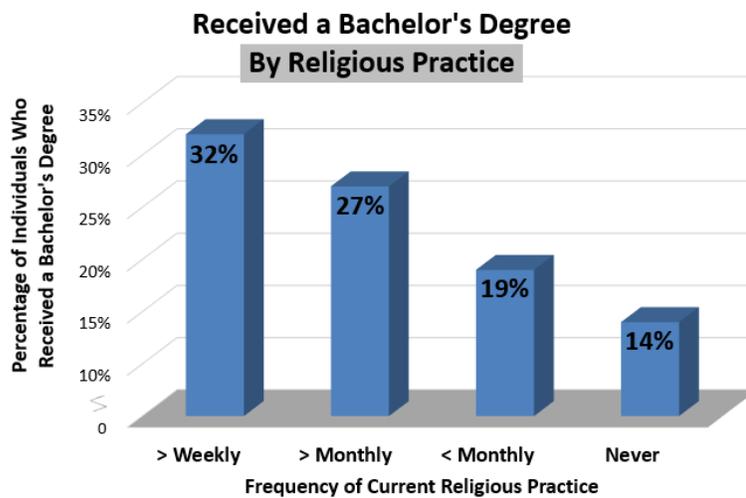


Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (1997)

Religious Practice: Eighty seven percent of students who attended religious services at least weekly received a high school degree. In contrast, only 70 percent of those who never worshipped received a high school degree. Between these two extremes were those who attended at least monthly (81 percent) and those who attended less than monthly (76 percent).¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (1997).

Received a Bachelor's Degree By Religious Practice

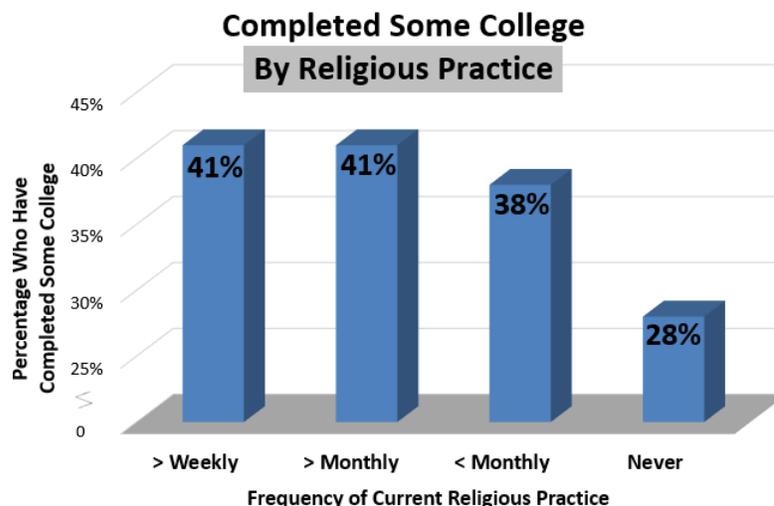


Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (1997)

Family Structure: Thirty six percent of individuals who came from intact, married families received a Bachelor's degree, followed by those from intact, cohabiting families (20 percent), single divorced-parent families (17 percent), married stepfamilies (16 percent), always-single parent families (8 percent), and cohabiting stepfamilies (7 percent).¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (1997).

Completed Some College By Religious Practice



Source: 1979 National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, Child and Young Adult (1994-2008)

Religious Practice: Forty-one percent of those who attended church weekly had completed some college, as well as 41 percent of those who attended at least once a month. Only 38 percent of those who attended church less than once a month had completed some college, followed by 28 percent of those who never attended church.¹

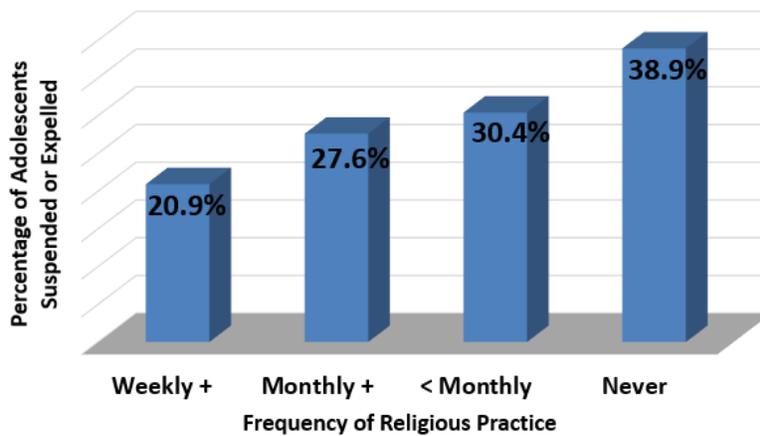
¹ These charts draw on data collected by the 1979 National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, Child and Young Adult (1994-2008)



Education: School Behavior

Adolescents Suspended or Expelled From School By Religious Practice

Adolescents Suspended or Expelled From School
By Religious Practice



Source: National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health. Adolescents Grades 7-12.

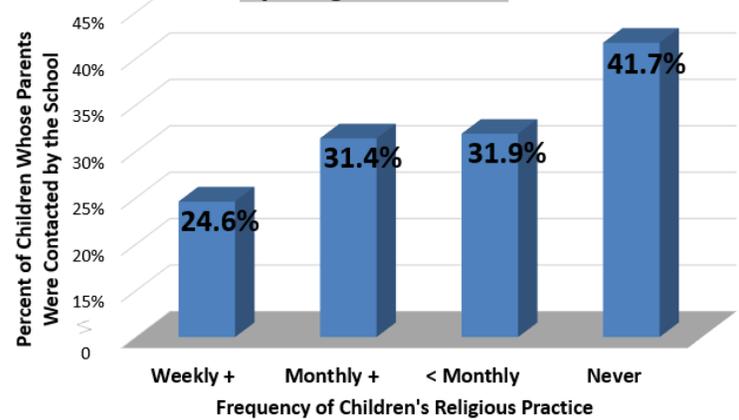
Religious Practice: The Adolescent Health Study also showed that 20.9 percent of students in Grades 7-12 who worshipped at least weekly had ever been suspended or expelled. By contrast, almost 39 percent of adolescents who never worshipped had been suspended or expelled. In between were those who attended services one to three times a month (27.6 percent) and those who attended services less than once a month (30.4 percent).

These charts draw on a large national sample (16,000) from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health. This work was done by the author in cooperation with former colleagues at The Heritage Foundation.

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Parents Contacted By School Over Child's Behavior Problems By Religious Practice

Parents Contacted By School Over Child's Behavior Problems
By Religious Practice

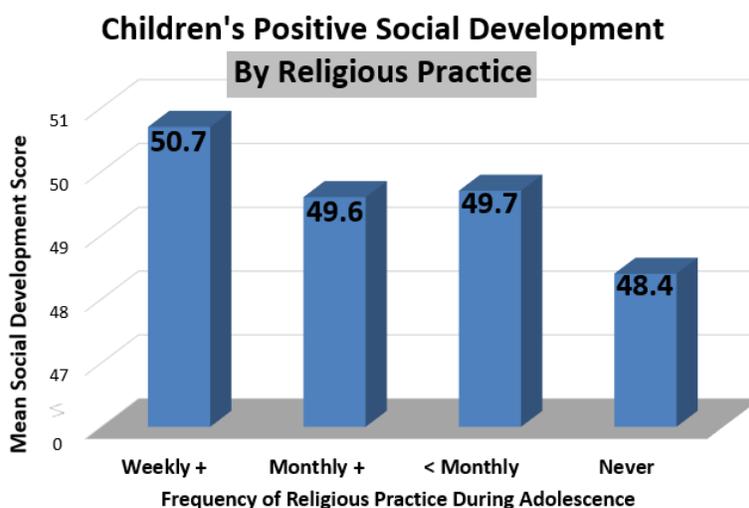


Source: National Survey of Children's Health (2003)

Religious Practice: Only 24.6 percent of children who worshipped at least weekly had their parents contacted by their school to report behavior problems, whereas 41.7 percent of children who never worshipped had their parents contacted by their school. In between were children who worshipped one to three times a month (31.4 percent) and children who attended religious services less than once a month (31.9 percent).

These charts draw on data collected by the National Center for Health Statistics in the National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) in 2003. The data sample consisted of parents of 102,353 children and teens in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. 68,996 of these children and teens were between six and 17 years old, the age group that was the focus of the study. The survey sample in this age range represented a population of nearly 49 million young people nationwide.

Children's Positive Social Development By Religious Practice



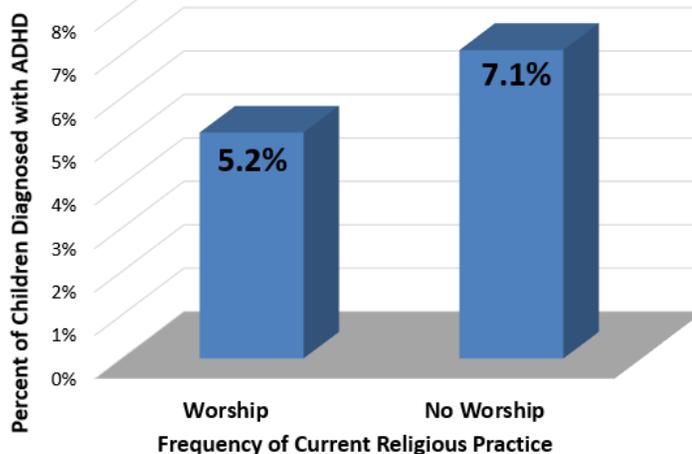
Source: National Survey of Children's Health (2003)

Religious Practice: Children who attended religious services at least weekly scored higher on the social development scale (50.7) than children who never attended religious services (48.4). In between were children who worshipped one to three times a month (49.6) and children who attended religious services less than once a month (49.7).

These charts draw on data collected by the National Center for Health Statistics in the National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) in 2003. The data sample consisted of parents of 102,353 children and teens in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. 68,996 of these children and teens were between six and 17 years old, the age group that was the focus of the study. The survey sample in this age range represented a population of nearly 49 million young people nationwide.

Children with Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder By Family Structure

Children with Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
By Religious Practice

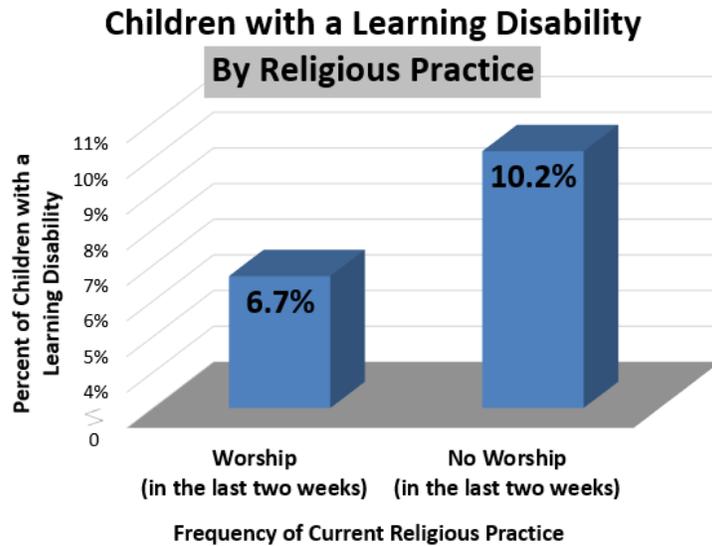


Source: National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) (2001)

Religious Practice: The 2001 cycle of the National Health Interview Survey showed that fewer children from families who worshipped had been diagnosed with ADHD (5.2%) than children whose families did not worship (7.1%).¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the National Health Interview Survey, 2001
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Children with a Learning Disability¹ By Religious Practice



Source: National Health Interview Survey (2011)

Religious Practice: Families that worshipped every other week (or more) were less likely to have been told that their child had a learning disability (6.7 percent) than were families that did not worship (10.2 percent).²

¹ According to the 2000 NHIS Field Representative’s Manual, “learning disability” for this question was defined as: “a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or using language, spoken or written. It may be evident by an inability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or do mathematical calculations.”

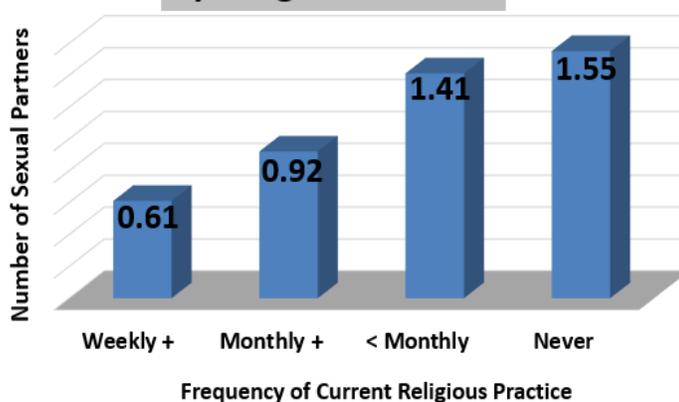
² These charts draw on data collected by the National Health Interview Survey, 2001



Sexuality: Sexual Initiation & Number of Sexual Partners

Number of Sexual Partners for Adolescent Girls By Religious Practice

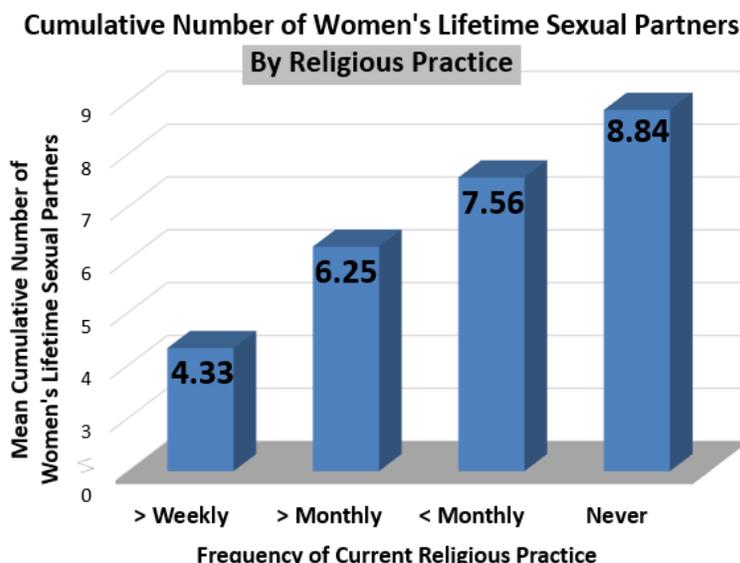
Number of Sexual Partners for Adolescent Girls
By Religious Practice



Source: National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, Wave I and II.
Adolescents Grades 7-12.

Religious Practice: Female students in Grades 7-12 who worshipped at least weekly had an average of 0.61 sexual intercourse partners, while those who worshipped one to three times a month had an average of 0.92, or 50 percent higher, according to the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, Waves I and II. The average jumped significantly for students who attended a few times a year (1.41), 130 percent higher, or never (1.55), 150 percent higher.

Cumulative Number of Women's Lifetime Sexual Partners By Religious Practice



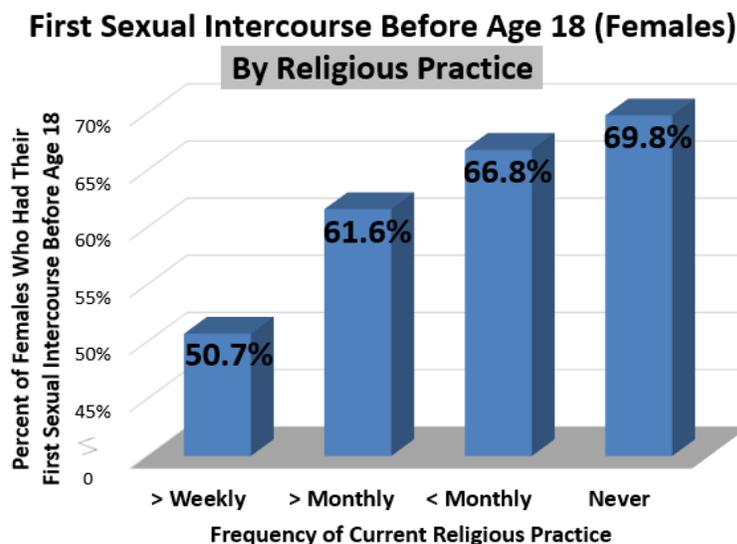
Source: National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 6 (2002)

Religious Practice: Based on the National Survey of Family Growth (2002),¹ women aged 35-44 who worshiped at least weekly had, on average, 4.33 lifetime sexual partners, followed by those who worshiped between one and three times a month (6.25), those who attended religious services less than once a month (7.56), and those who never attended religious services (8.84).²

¹ Whereas the present family structure sample data and combined religious attendance/family structure sample data describe only the population of mothers between the ages of 35 and 44, the religious attendance data describe the population of *all* women between the ages of 35 and 44. We realize these charts would have more value if all three charts drew from the same population set, but the difference was only noted after the data was in.

² These charts draw on data collected by the National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 6 (2002). The sample consists of women between the ages of 35 and 44 and numbers 2,479.

First Sexual Intercourse Before Age 18 (Females) By Religious Practice

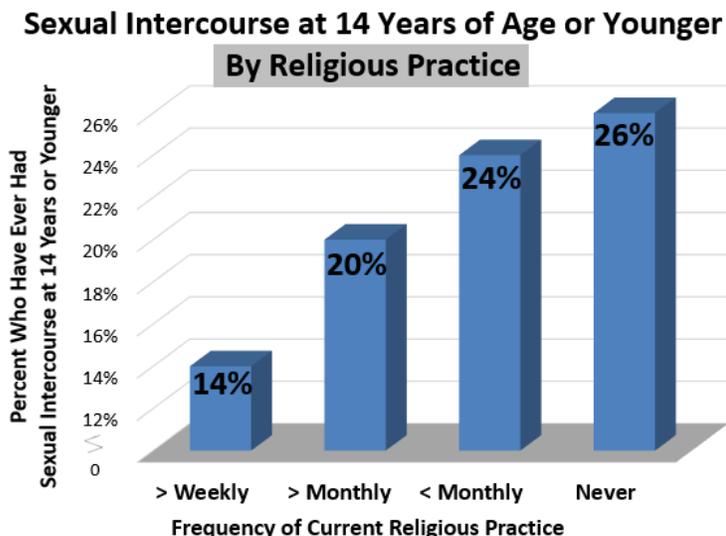


Source: National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 6 (2002)

Religious Practice: 50.7 percent of women who worshipped at least weekly at the time of the survey had sexual intercourse before turning 18, followed by those who attended religious services between one and three times a month (61.6 percent), those who attended religious services less than once a month (66.8 percent), and those who never attended religious services (69.8 percent).¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 6 (2002). The sample consists of women between the ages of 14 and 44 and numbers 7,643.

Sexual Intercourse at 14 Years of Age or Younger By Religious Practice

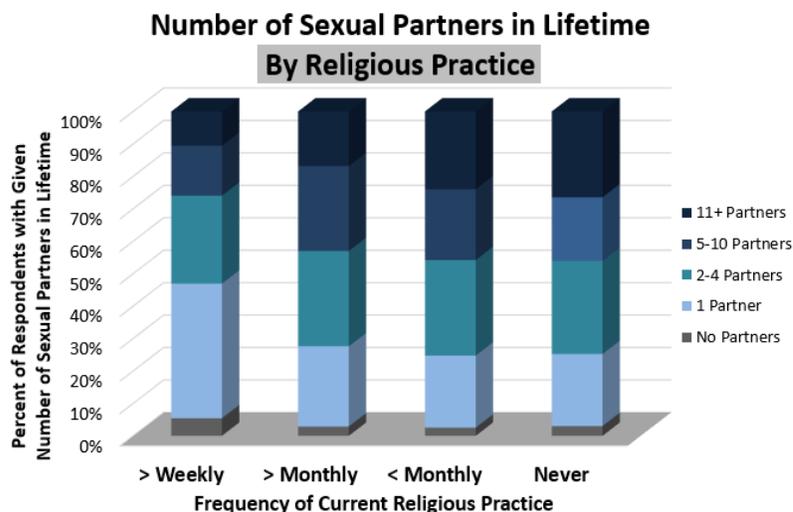


Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (1997)

Religious Practice: Only 14 percent of adolescents who attended weekly religious services at the time of the survey had ever had sexual intercourse at 14 years of age or younger, compared to those who attended church one to three times a month (20 percent), less than monthly (24 percent), and those who never attended church (26 percent).¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (1997).

Number of Sexual Partners in Lifetime By Religious Practice



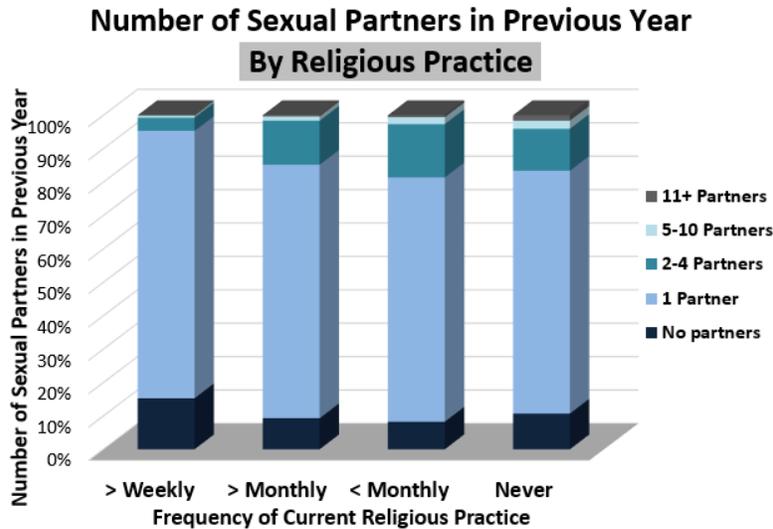
Source: National Health and Social Life Survey (1992)

Religious Practice: Those who worshipped weekly were most likely to have been monogamous/abstinent. Approximately 42 percent of those who worshipped weekly had only one lifetime sexual partner, and 5.4 percent had no lifetime sexual partners (a combined 46.9 percent of monogamous/abstinent persons). Among those who worshipped less than weekly but at least monthly, 24.7 percent had only one lifetime sexual partner, and 2.9 percent had no lifetime sexual partners (a combined 27.6 percent of monogamous/abstinent persons); among those who never worshipped, 22.2 percent had only one lifetime sexual partner and 3 percent had no lifetime sexual partners (a combined 25.3 percent of monogamous/abstinent persons); and among those who worshipped less than monthly, 22.2 percent had only one lifetime sexual partner and 2.5 percent had no lifetime sexual partners (a combined 24.8 percent of monogamous/abstinent persons).

Those who worshipped weekly also had the smallest percentage of persons with 11 or more lifetime sexual partners: 10.6 percent had 11 or more sexual partners, compared to 16.8 percent of those who worshipped less than weekly but at least monthly, 24 percent of those who worshipped less than monthly, and 26.5 percent of those who never worshipped.¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the 1992 National Health and Social Life Survey

Number of Sexual Partners in Previous Year By Religious Practice



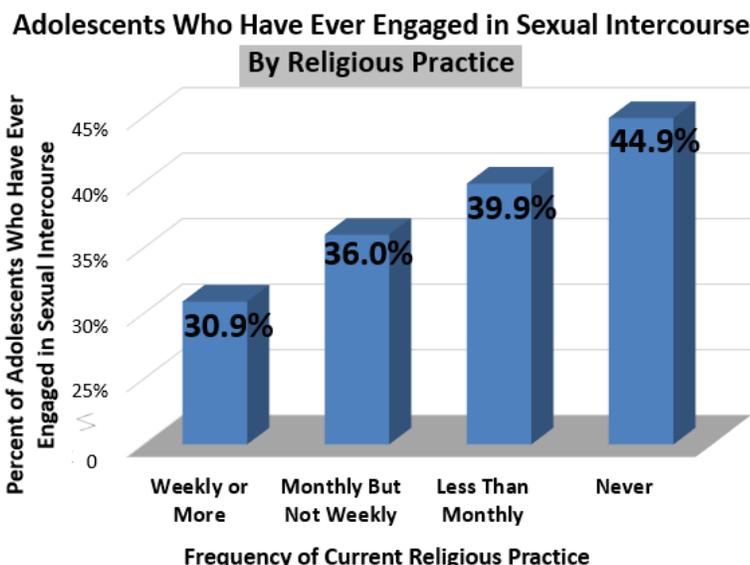
Source: National Health and Social Life Survey, 1992

Religious Practice: The “worships weekly” category contained the largest percentage of monogamous/abstinent persons. Approximately 80 percent of those who worshipped weekly at the time of the survey had only one sexual partner in the previous year, and 15.3 percent had no sexual partners (a combined 95.3 percent of monogamous/abstinent persons). Among those who worshipped less than weekly but at least monthly, 75.9 percent had only one sexual partner in the previous year, and 9.3 percent had no sexual partners (a combined 85.2 percent of monogamous/abstinent persons); among those who never worshipped, 72.7 percent had only one sexual partner in the previous year, and 10.7 percent had no sexual partners (a combined 83.4 percent of monogamous/abstinent persons); and among those who worshipped less than monthly, 73.1 percent had only one sexual partner in the previous year, and 8.2 percent had no sexual partners (a combined 81.4 percent of monogamous/abstinent persons).

Those who worshipped weekly also had the smallest percentage of persons with 11 or more sexual partners in the previous year: .1 percent had 11 or more sexual partners, compared to .4 percent of those who worshipped less than weekly but at least monthly, .6 percent of those who worshipped less than monthly, and 1.6 percent of those who never worshipped.¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the 1992 National Health and Social Life Survey

Adolescents Who Have Ever Engaged in Sexual Intercourse By Religious Practice



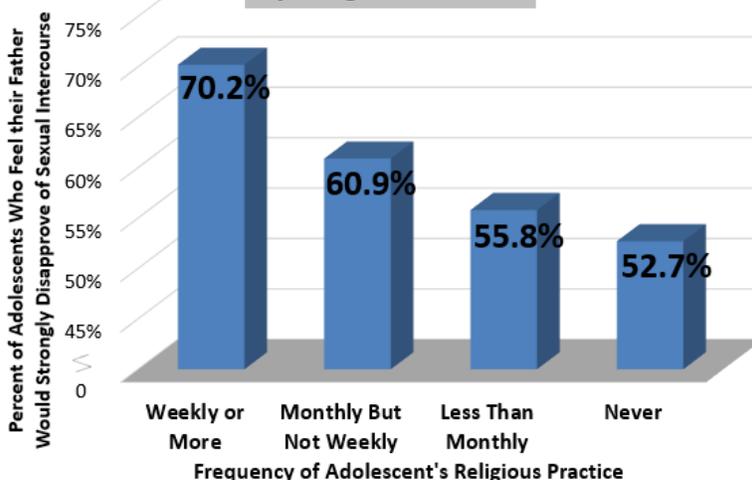
Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Adolescent Health, Wave 1

Religious Practice: The likelihood that an adolescent had ever had sex decreased as the adolescent's religious involvement increased. Thirteen to nineteen year-olds who attended religious services weekly or more within the past year were less likely to have engaged in sexual intercourse (30.9%) than those who attended less than monthly but not weekly (36.0%), less than monthly (39.9%), or never (44.9%).¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the National Longitudinal Survey of Adolescent Health (Add Health), Wave I

Father Strongly Disapproves of Adolescent Sexual Intercourse By Religious Practice

Father Would Disapprove of Adolescent Sexual Intercourse
By Religious Practice



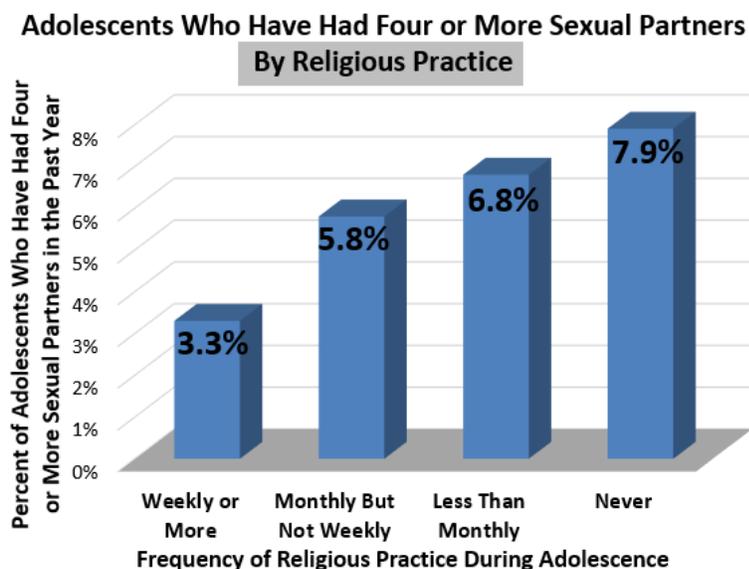
Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Adolescent Health (Add Health), Wave I

Religious Practice: Teens who attended religious services were more likely to feel that their father would strongly disapprove of their engaging in sexual intercourse. Thirteen- to nineteen-year-olds who worshipped weekly or more often within the past year were more likely to believe that their father would disapprove of their having sexual intercourse (70.2 percent) than those who attended monthly but not weekly (60.9 percent), less than monthly (55.8 percent), or never (52.7 percent).^{1, 2}

¹ The charts draw on data collected by the National Longitudinal Survey of Adolescent Health. The National Longitudinal Survey of Adolescent Health (Add Health) is a congressionally-mandated longitudinal survey of American adolescents. Add Health drew a random sample of adolescents aged 13-19 in 1995 from junior high and high schools (Wave I) and has followed them in successive waves in 2001 (Wave III) and 2009 (Wave IV).

² Respondents were asked to react to the statement "How would [your father] feel about your having sex at this time in your life?" Their options included: "strongly disapprove," "disapprove," "neither disapprove nor approve," "approve," "strongly approve," "refused," "don't know," or "not applicable."

Adolescents Who Have Had Four or More Sexual Partners By Religious Practice



Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Adolescent Health, Wave I

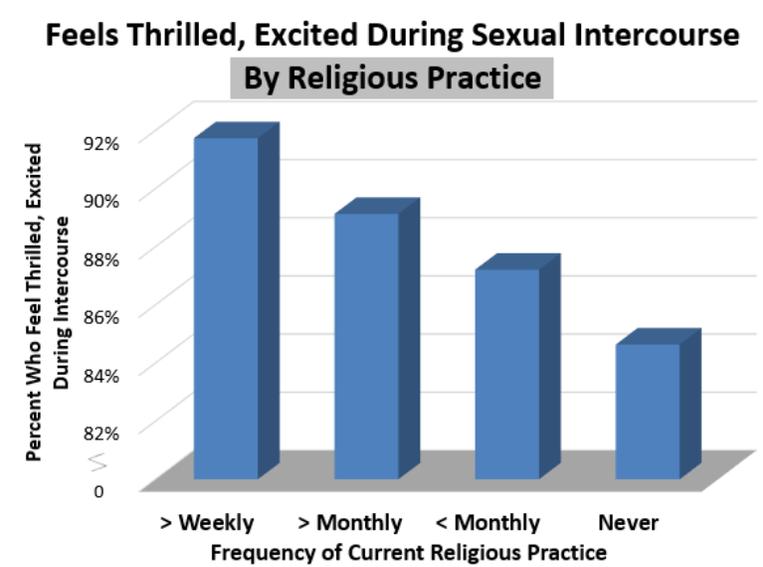
Religious Practice: Thirteen-to-nineteen-year-olds who attended religious services weekly or more were least likely to have had four or more sexual partners in the past year (3.3 percent). Adolescents who never attended church and adolescents who attended less than once a week were more likely to have four or more sexual partners: there was almost no statistical difference between the two (6.8 percent versus 7.9 percent respectively).¹

¹The data come from Wave 1 of the National Longitudinal Survey of Adolescent Health (Add Health). Respondents were asked to respond to the question "Since January 1, with how many people in total have you had a sexual relationship?" Their answer choices were to give a specific number or to answer "refused," "legitimate skip," "don't know," or "not applicable."



Sexuality: Sexual Satisfaction

Feels Thrilled, Excited During Sexual Intercourse By Religious Practice

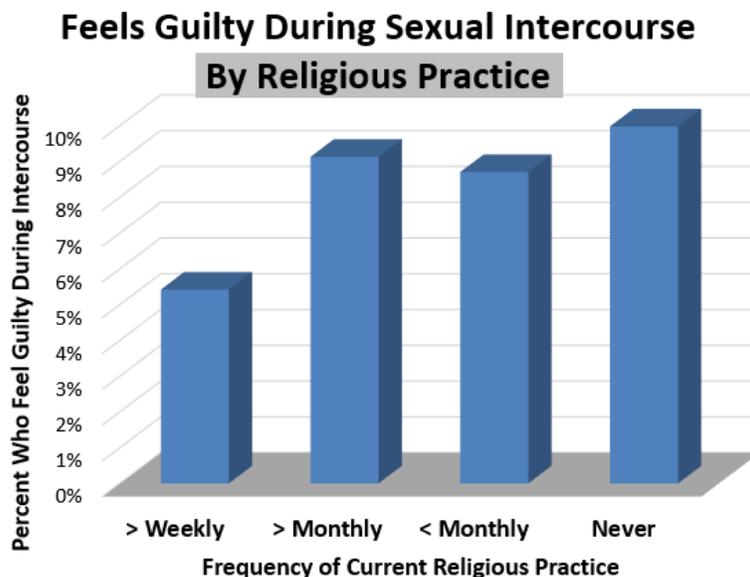


Source: National Health and Social Life Survey, 1992

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).¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the 1992 National Health and Social Life Survey
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Feels Guilty During Sexual Intercourse By Religious Practice

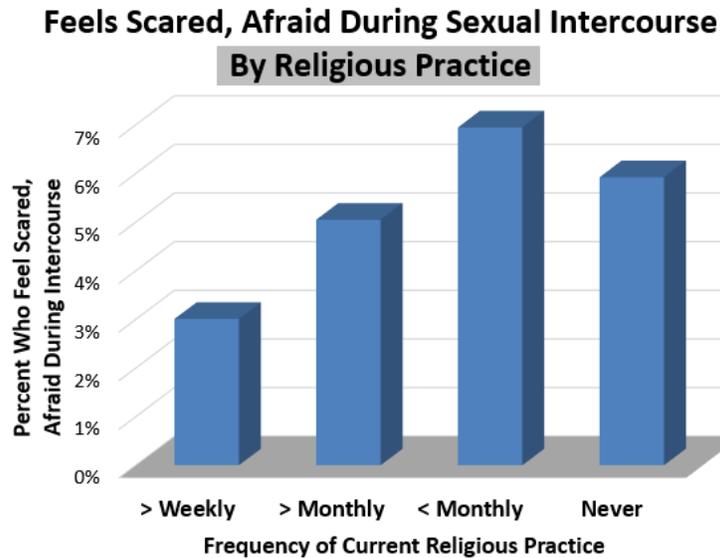


Source: National Health and Social Life Survey, 1992

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).¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the 1992 National Health and Social Life Survey

Feels Scared, Afraid During Sexual Intercourse By Religious Practice

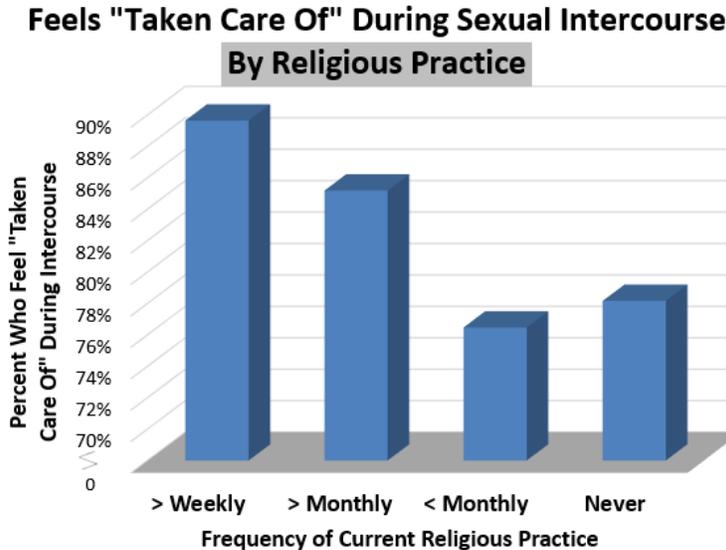


Source: National Health and Social Life Survey, 1992

Religious Practice: Those who worshipped weekly (3 percent) were least likely to feel scared or afraid during intercourse with their current sexual partner, followed by those who worshipped less than weekly but at least monthly (5 percent), those who never worshipped (5.9 percent), and those who worshipped less than monthly (6.9 percent).¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the 1992 National Health and Social Life Survey

Feels "Taken Care Of" During Sexual Intercourse By Religious Practice

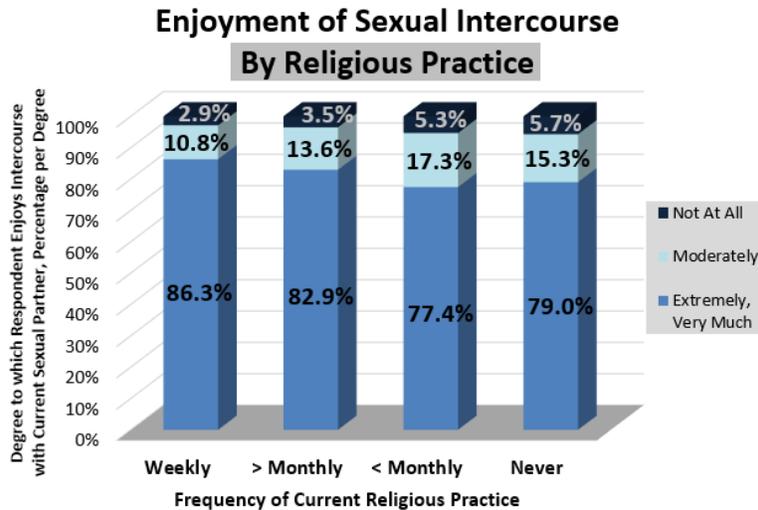


Source: National Health and Social Life Survey, 1992

Religious Practice: Those who worshipped weekly at the time of the survey were most likely to report feeling “taken care of” during intercourse with their current sexual partner (89.6 percent), followed by those who worshipped less than weekly but at least monthly (85.2 percent), those who never worshipped (78.2 percent), and those who worshipped less than monthly (76.5 percent).¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the 1992 National Health and Social Life Survey

Enjoyment of Sexual Intercourse By Religious Practice

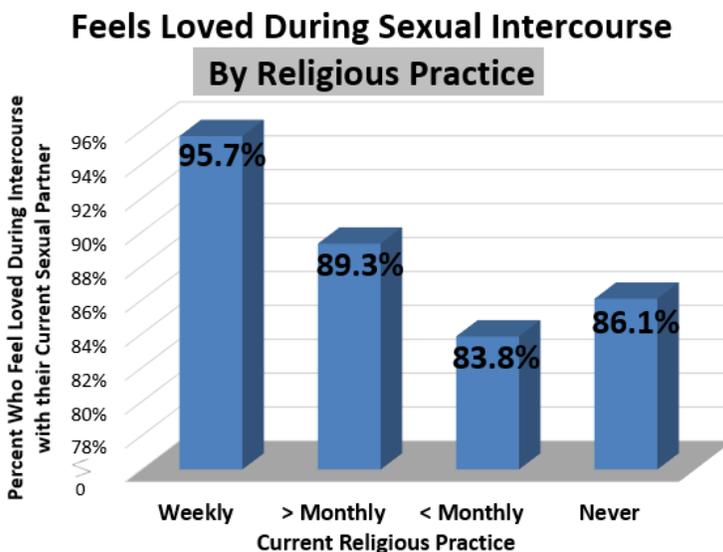


Source: National Health and Social Life Survey. 1992

Religious Practice: Those who worshiped weekly were most likely to report that they “extremely” or “very” much enjoyed intercourse with their current sexual partner (86.3 percent). As worship decreased, so did a couple’s enjoyment of intercourse: 82.9 percent of those who worshiped less than weekly but at least monthly; 79 percent of those who never worshiped; 77.4 percent of those who worshiped less than monthly reported enjoying “extremely” or “very” much enjoying intercourse with their current partner.¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the 1992 National Health and Social Life Survey

Feels Loved During Sexual Intercourse By Religious Practice

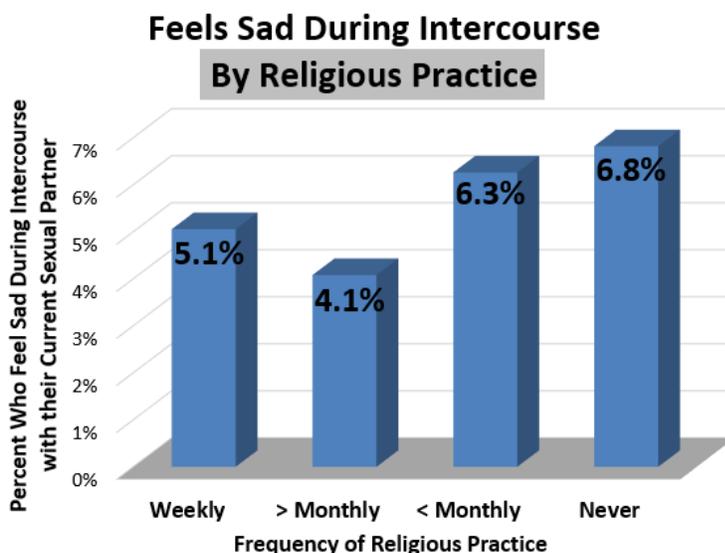


Source: National Health and Social Life Survey, 1992

Religious Practice: Those who worshiped weekly at the time of the survey were most likely to report feeling loved during intercourse with their current sexual partner (95.7 percent), followed by those who worshiped less than weekly but at least monthly (89.3 percent), those who never worshiped (86.1 percent), and those who worshiped less than monthly (83.8 percent).¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the 1992 National Health and Social Life Survey
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Feels Sad During Sexual Intercourse By Religious Practice

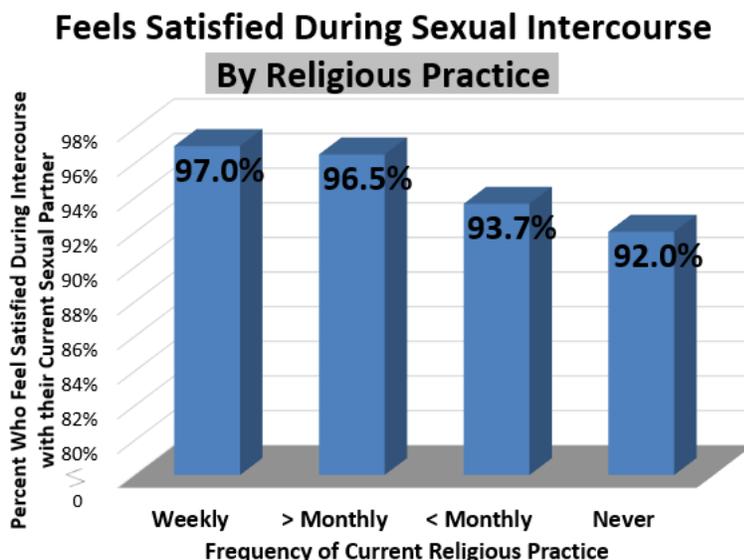


Source: National Health and Social Life Survey, 1992

Religious Practice: Those who worshiped less than weekly but at least monthly were least likely to feel sad during intercourse with their current sexual partner (4.1 percent). As regular worship decreased, sadness increased: 5.1 percent of those who worshiped weekly felt sad during intercourse with their current partner; 6.3 percent of those who worshiped less than monthly felt sad during intercourse; 6.8 percent of those who never worshiped felt sad during intercourse.¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the 1992 National Health and Social Life Survey
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Feels Satisfied During Sexual Intercourse By Religious Practice

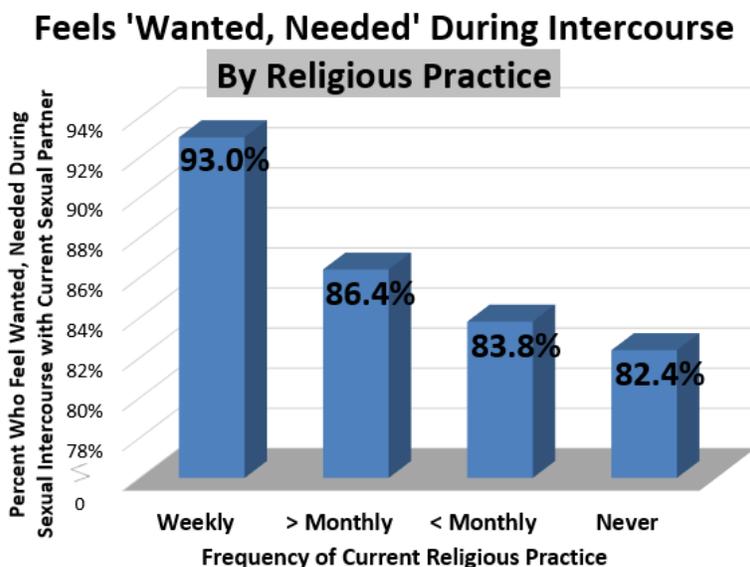


Source: National Health and Social Life Survey, 1992

Religious Practice: Those who worshiped weekly were most likely to report feeling satisfied during intercourse with their current sexual partner (97 percent). This satisfaction decreased as regular worship decreased: 96.5 percent of those who worshiped less than weekly but at least monthly, 93.7 percent of those who worshiped less than monthly, and 92 percent of those who never worshiped reported feeling satisfied during intercourse.¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the 1992 National Health and Social Life Survey

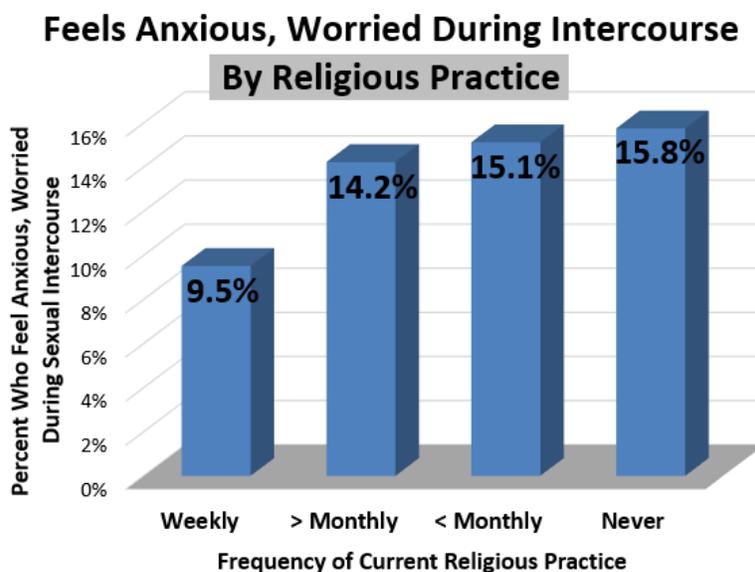
Feels Wanted, Needed During Sexual Intercourse By Religious Practice



Religious Practice: Those who worshiped weekly were most likely to report feeling wanted and needed during intercourse with their current sexual partner (93 percent), followed by those who worshiped less than weekly but at least monthly (86.4 percent), those who worshiped less than monthly (83.8 percent), and those who never worshiped (82.4 percent).¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the 1992 National Health and Social Life Survey
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Feels Anxious, Worried During Sexual Intercourse By Religious Practice



Source: National Health and Social Life Survey, 1992

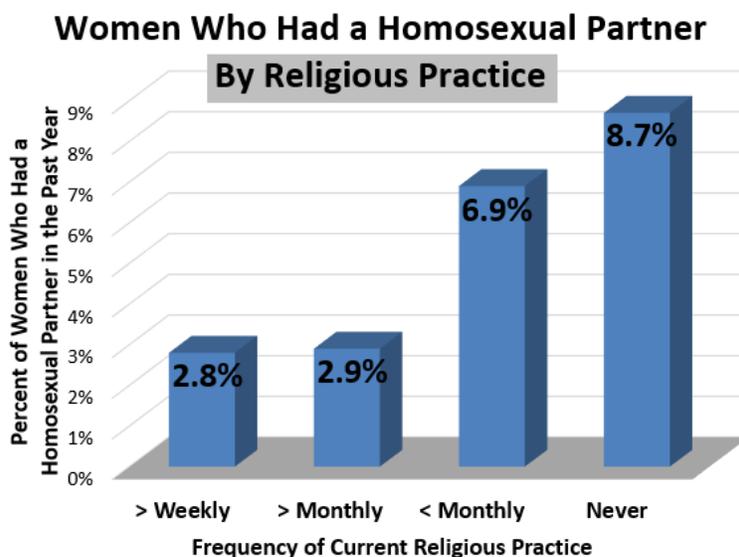
Religious Practice: Those who worshiped weekly were the least likely to feel anxious or worried during intercourse with their current sexual partner (9.5 percent). Anxiety during intercourse increased alongside decreased religious attendance: 14.2 percent of those who worshiped less than weekly but at least monthly felt anxious or worried during intercourse; 15.1 percent of those who worshiped less than monthly felt negative or anxious, and 15.8 percent of those who never worshiped felt anxious or worried during intercourse with their partner.¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the 1992 National Health and Social Life Survey
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Sexuality: Risky Sexual Behavior

Women Who Had a Homosexual Sexual Partner By Religious Practice

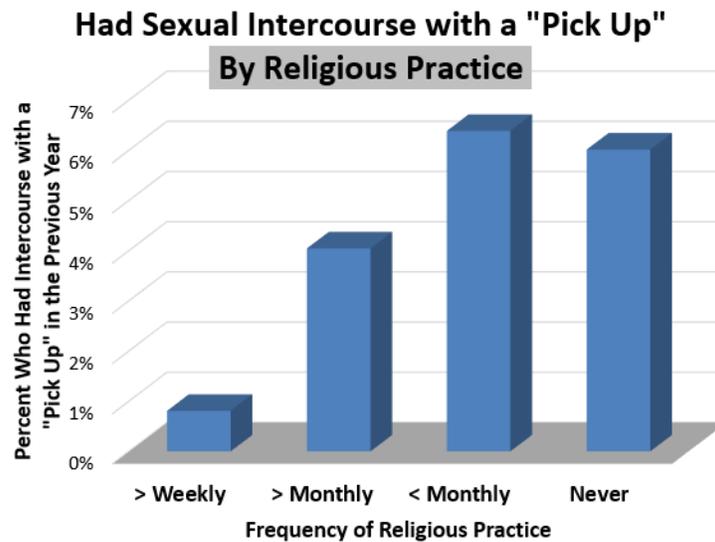


Source: National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 6 (2002)

Religious Practice: According to the National Survey of Family Growth, 2.8 percent of women who worshipped at least weekly had a homosexual sexual partner in the year prior to being surveyed, followed by women who worshipped between one and three times a month (2.9 percent), those who worshipped less than once a month (6.9 percent), and those who never attended religious services (8.7 percent).¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 6 (2002). The sample consists of women between the ages of 14 and 44 and numbers 7,643.

Had Sexual Intercourse with a “Pick-Up” By Religious Practice



Source: National Health and Social Life Survey, 1992

Religious Practice: Those who worshipped weekly at the time of the survey were far less likely to have had intercourse with a “pick-up” in the previous year (.8 percent) than those who worshipped less than weekly but at least monthly (4 percent), those who never worshipped (6 percent), and those who worshipped less than monthly (6.4 percent).¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the 1992 National Health and Social Life Survey
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Has Ever Paid or Been Paid for Sex By Religious Practice

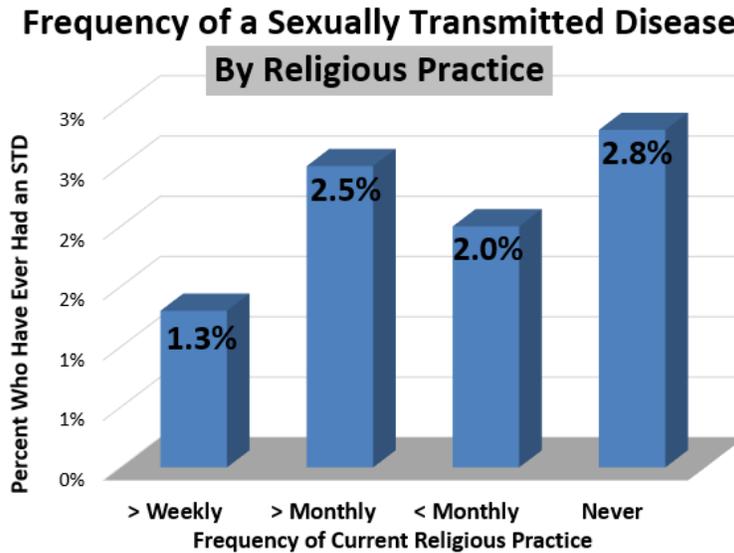


Source: National Health and Social Life Survey, 1992

Religious Practice: Those who worshipped weekly at the time of the survey were least likely to have ever paid or been paid for sex (6.2 percent), followed by those who worshipped less than weekly but at least monthly (7.6 percent), those who worshipped less than monthly (10.2 percent), and those who never worshipped (10.9 percent).¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the 1992 National Health and Social Life Survey
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Frequency of a Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) By Religious Practice

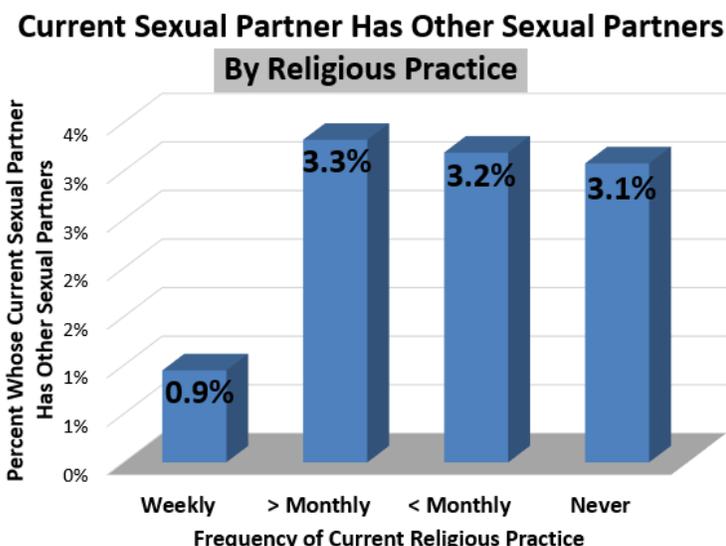


Source: National Health and Social Life Survey (1992)

Religious Practice: Those who worshiped weekly were least likely to have ever had an STD (1.3 percent). The likelihood of having an STD increased as regularity of worship decreased: 2 percent of those who worshiped less than monthly had ever had an STD; 2.5 percent of those who worshiped less than weekly but at least monthly had ever had an STD; and 2.8 percent of those who never worshipped had ever had an STD.¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the 1992 National Health and Social Life Survey

Current Sexual Partner Has Other Sexual Partners By Religious Practice

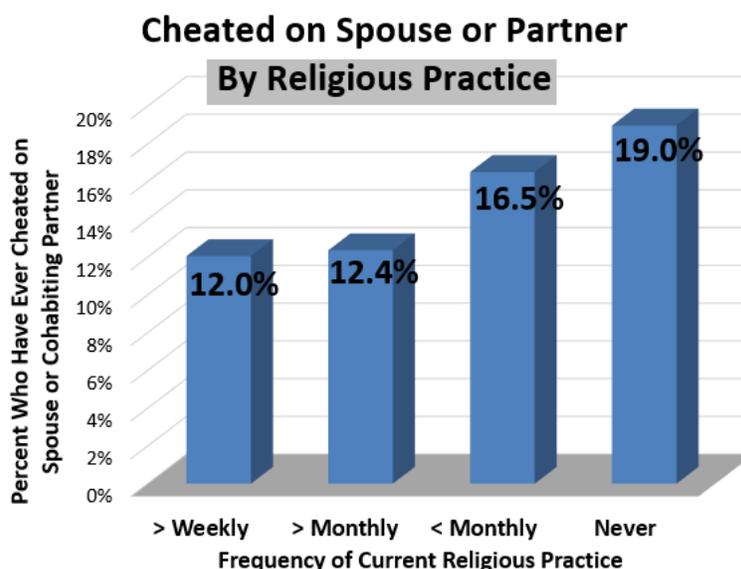


Source: National Health and Social Life Survey, 1992

Religious Practice: Those who worshiped weekly were least likely to have a current sexual partner who had other concurrent sexual partners (.9 percent), followed by those who never worshiped (3.1 percent), those who worshiped less than monthly (3.2 percent), and those who worshiped less than weekly but at least monthly (3.3 percent).¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the 1992 National Health and Social Life Survey

Ever Cheated on Spouse or Cohabiting Partner By Religious Practice

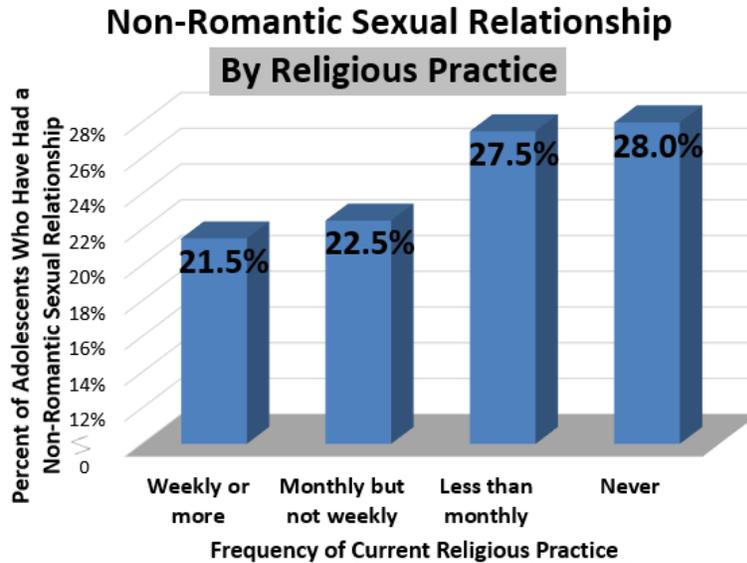


Source: National Health and Social Life Survey, 1992

Religious Practice: Religious attendance was inversely related to cheating on one's spouse or cohabiting partner. Those who worshiped weekly were least likely to have ever been unfaithful (12 percent), followed by those who worshiped less than weekly but at least monthly (12.4 percent), those who worshiped less than monthly (16.5 percent), and those who never worshiped (19 percent).¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the 1992 National Health and Social Life Survey
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Non-Romantic Sexual Relationships By Religious Practice



Religious Practice: The likelihood that an adolescent had a non-romantic sexual relationship decreased as the adolescent’s religious involvement increased. Teens who attended religious services weekly or more within the past year were less likely to have had non-romantic sexual intercourse (21.5 percent) than those who attended monthly but not weekly (22.5 percent), less than monthly (27.5 percent), or never (28.0 percent).¹

¹ The charts draw on data collected by the National Longitudinal Survey of Adolescent Health. The National Longitudinal Survey of Adolescent Health (Add Health) is a congressionally-mandated longitudinal survey of American adolescents. Add Health drew a random sample of adolescents aged 13-19 in 1995 from junior high and high schools (Wave I) and has followed them in successive waves in 2001 (Wave III) and 2009 (Wave IV).



Crime and Violence

Shoplifting Among Adolescents By Religious Practice

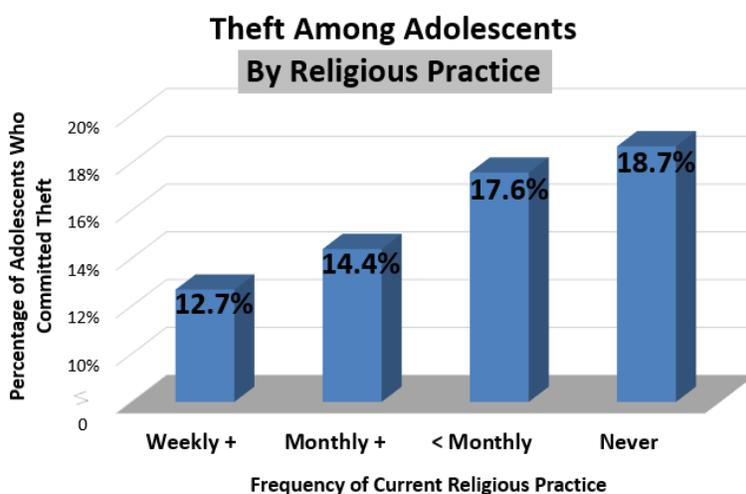


Source: National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, Waves I and II.
Adolescents Grades 7-12.

Religious Practice: Whereas only 6.2 percent of students in Grades 7-12 who worshipped at least weekly had shoplifted three or more times, 10.9 percent of those who never worshipped were repeat shoplifters. In between were those who attended one to three times a month (7.5 percent) and less than once a month (10.4 percent).

These charts draw on a large national sample (16,000) from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, Waves I and II. This work was done by the author in cooperation with former colleagues at The Heritage Foundation.

Theft Among Adolescents By Religious Practice

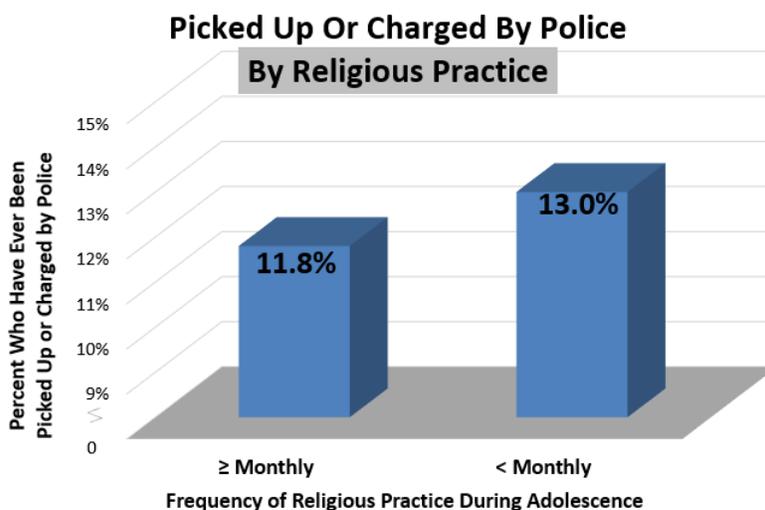


Source: National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, Adolescents Grades 7-12.

Family Structure: According to a confidential survey conducted as part of the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, 13 percent of children who lived in intact married families admitted to having stolen at least \$50 worth of goods. By comparison, 18.8 percent of children whose parents never married, 19 percent of those whose parents were divorced, 19.8 percent of those living with a step-parent, 14.5 percent of those living with cohabiting biological parents, and 22.6 percent of those living in cohabiting stepfamilies had stolen at least \$50 worth.

These charts draw on a large national sample (16,000) from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health. This work was done by the author in cooperation with former colleagues at The Heritage Foundation.

Picked Up or Charged By Police By Religious Practice

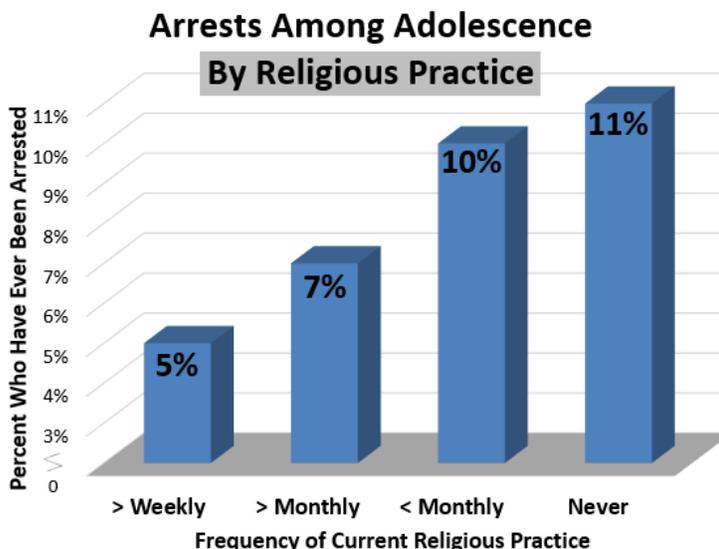


Source: General Social Surveys, 1972-1987

Religious Practice: Based on the General Social Survey 11.8 percent of adults who attended religious services at least monthly as adolescents have ever been picked up or charged by police, compared to 13 percent of adults who attended worship less than monthly as adolescents.

These charts draw on data collected by the General Social Surveys, 1972-1987. The sample size averaged 1,500 each year. No GSS was conducted in 1979 or 1981.

Arrests Among Adolescents By Religious Practice



Religious Practice: Five percent of youths who attended weekly religious services at the time of the survey had ever been arrested, followed by those who attended one to three times a month (7 percent), those who attended less than once a month (10 percent), and those who never attended church (11 percent).¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (1997).

Assaulted Someone By Religious Practice



Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (1997)

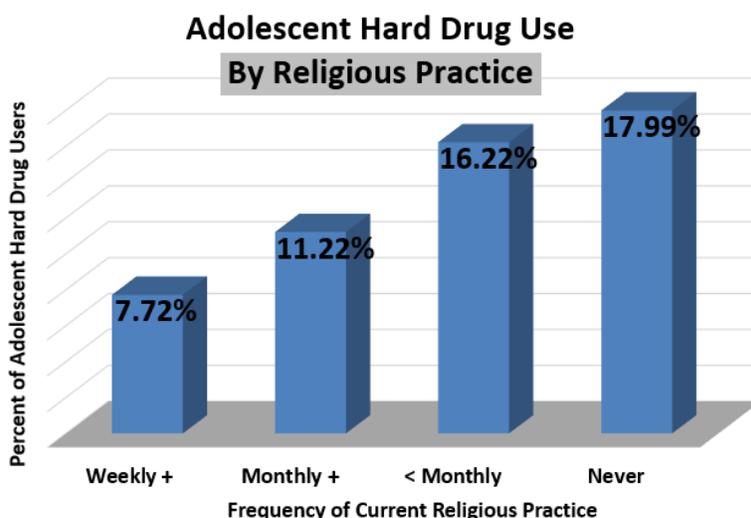
Religious Practice: The 1997 National Longitudinal Survey of Youth shows that 15 percent of those who attended religious services at least once per week at the time of the survey committed assault. They were followed by those who attended services at least monthly (17 percent) and those who attended less than monthly (21 percent). Adults who never attended religious services were most likely (22 percent) to ever have assaulted someone.¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (1997).



Substance Abuse

Adolescent Hard Drug Use By Religious Practice



Source: National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, Wave I. Adolescents Grades 7-12.

Religious Practice: Only 7.72 percent of students in Grades 7-12 who worshipped at least weekly had ever used hard drugs, whereas 17.99 percent of those who never worshipped admitted to using hard drugs. In between were those who attended worship service one to three times a month (11.22 percent) and less than once a month (16.22 percent). The data were taken from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, Waves I.

These charts draw on a large national sample (16,000) from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health. This work was done by the author in cooperation with former colleagues at The Heritage Foundation, Washington, D.C.

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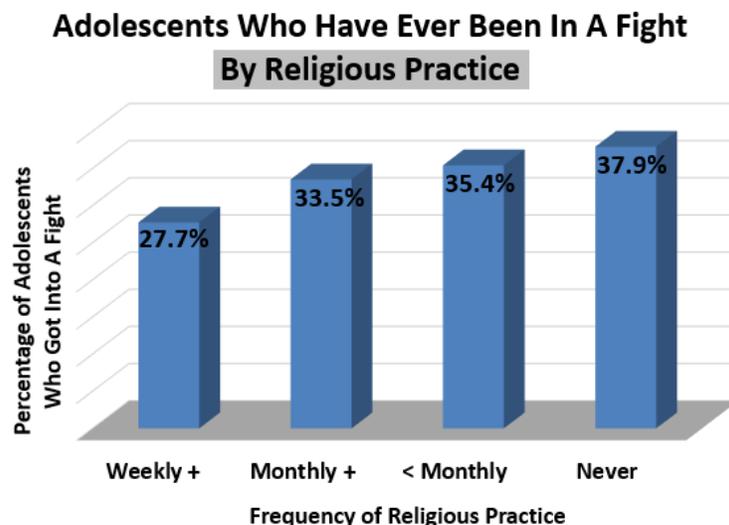
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Adolescents Who Have Ever Been In A Fight By Religious Practice



Source: National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, Waves I and II.
Adolescents Grades 7-12.

Religious Practice: Waves I and II of the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health showed that 37.9 percent of students in Grades 7-12 who never worshipped had been in a fight, whereas only 27.7 percent of adolescents who worshipped at least weekly had been in a fight. Of those who attended religious services between one and three times a month, 33.5 percent had been in a fight, and of those who worship less than once a month, 35.4 percent had been in a fight.

These charts draw on a large national sample (16,000) from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health. This work was done by the author in cooperation with former colleagues at The Heritage Foundation, Washington, D.C.

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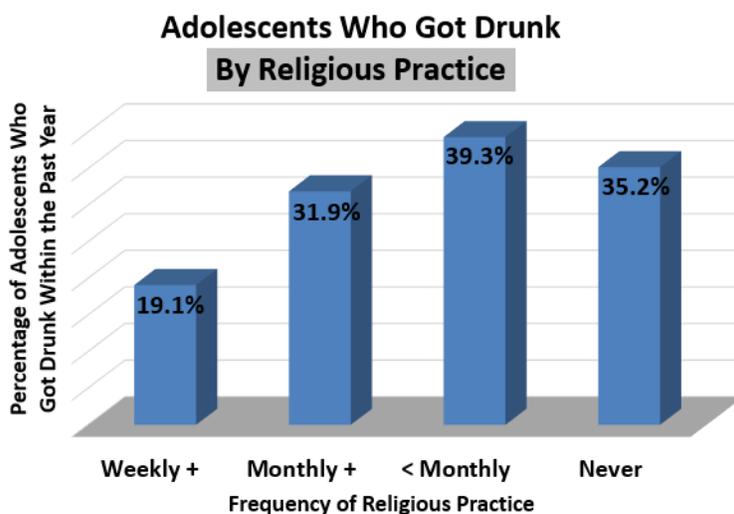
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Adolescents Who Got Drunk By Religious Practice



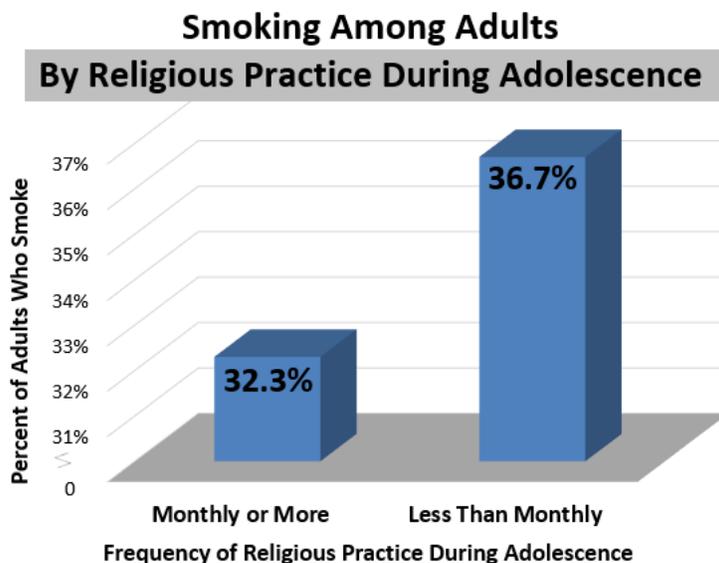
Source: National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, Waves I. Adolescents Grades 7-12.

Religious Practice: 19.1 percent of students in Grades 7-12 who attended religious services at least weekly got drunk in the year prior to being asked. By contrast, 35.2 percent of adolescents who never worshipped, 31.9 percent of those who worshipped one to three times a month, and 39.3 percent of those who attended religious services less than once a month admitted to getting drunk within that timeframe.

These charts draw on a large national sample (16,000) from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health. This work was done by the author in cooperation with former colleagues at The Heritage Foundation.

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Smoking Among Adults By Religious Practice

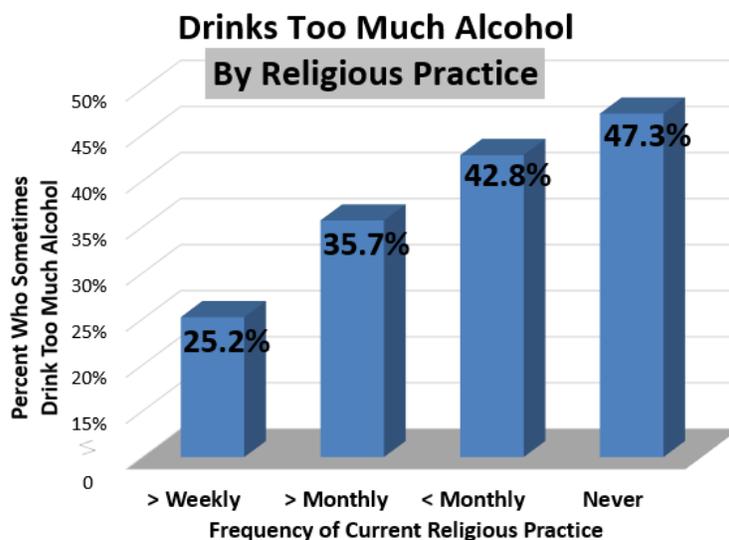


Source: General Social Surveys, 1972-2006

Religious Practice: Adults who frequently attended religious services as adolescents are less likely to smoke than those who did not. According to the General Social Surveys (GSS), 32.3 percent of adults who attended religious services at least monthly as adolescents smoke, compared to 36.7 percent of those who worshiped less frequently.

This chart draws on data collected by the General Social Surveys, 1972-2006. From 1972 to 1993, the sample size averaged 1,500 each year. No GSS was conducted in 1979, 1981, or 1992. Since 1994, the GSS has been conducted only in even-numbered years and uses two samples per GSS that total approximately 3,000. In 2006, a third sample was added for a total sample size of 4,510.

Drinks Too Much Alcohol By Religious Practice

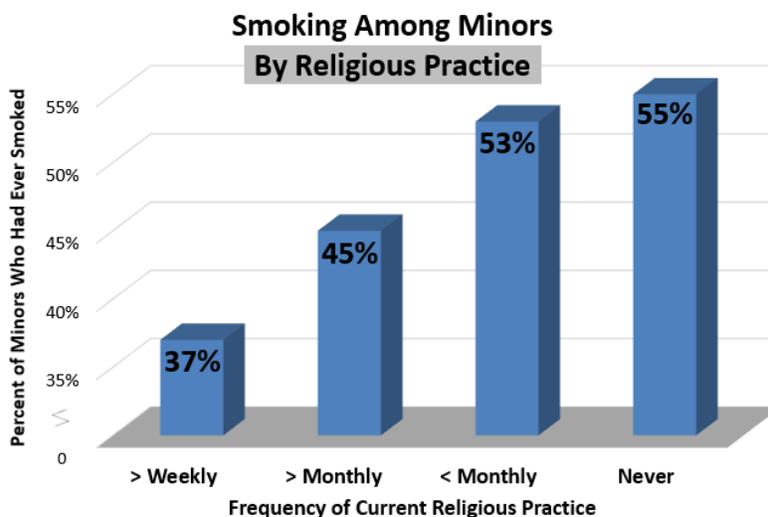


Source: General Social Survey, 1972-2006

Religious Practice: According to the General Social Survey (GSS), 25.2 percent of adults who worshiped at least weekly reported that they sometimes drink too much alcohol, followed by 35.7 percent of those who worshiped between one and three times a month, 42.8 percent of those who attended religious services less than once a month, and 47.3 percent of those who never attended religious services.¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the General Social Survey, 1972-2006. From 1972 to 1993, the sample size averaged 1,500 each year. No GSS was conducted in 1979, 1981, or 1992. Since 1994, the GSS has been conducted only in even-numbered years and uses two samples per GSS that total approximately 3,000. In 2006, a third sample was added for a total sample size of 4,510.

Smoking Among Minors By Religious Practice

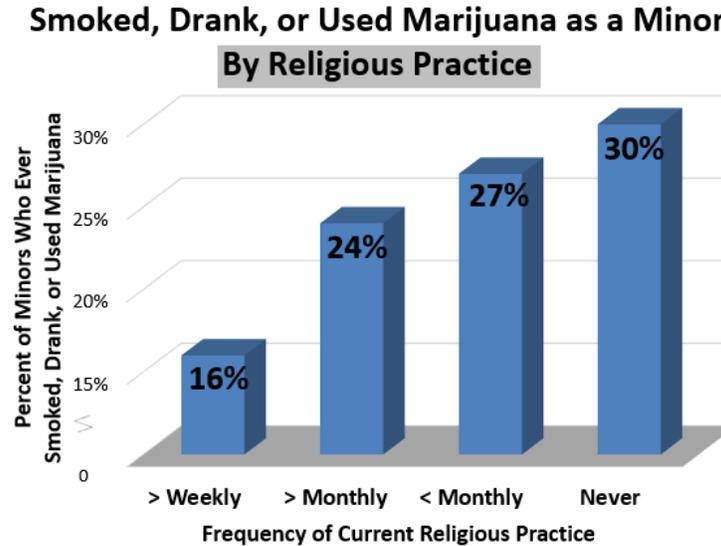


Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (1997)

Religious Practice: 37 percent of children who attended religious services weekly had smoked, compared with those who attended between one and three times a month (45 percent), those who attended less than once a month (53 percent), and those who never attended religious services (55 percent).¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (1997).

Smoked, Drank, or Used Marijuana as a Minor By Religious Practice

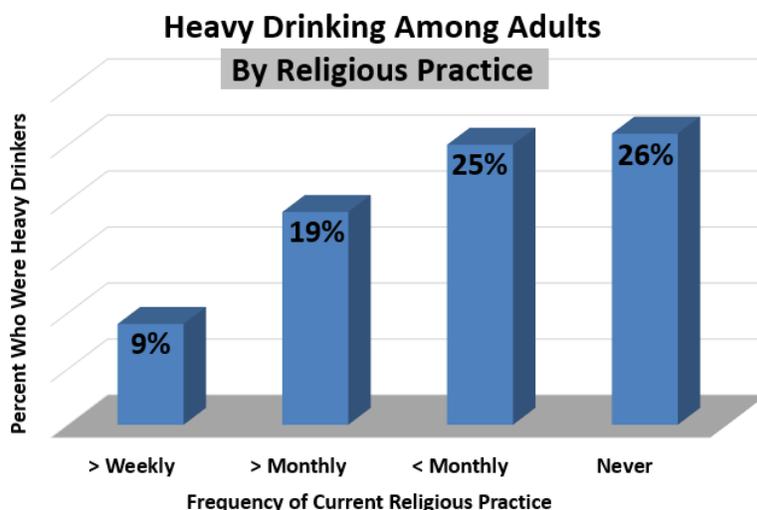


Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (1997)

Religious Practice: 16 percent of adolescents who worshipped at least weekly at the time of the survey smoked, drank, or used marijuana under age, followed by those who attended religious services at least once a month (24 percent), those who attended less than once monthly (27 percent), and those who never attended religious services (30 percent).¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (1997).
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Heavy Drinking Among Adults By Religious Practice

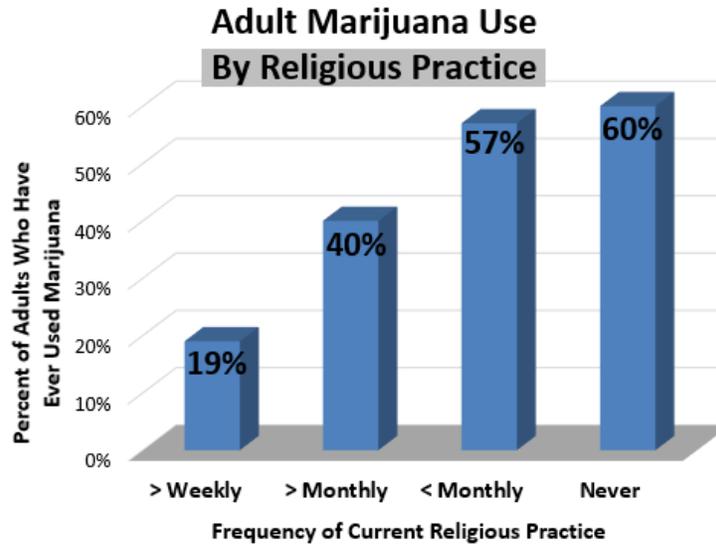


Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979 and Child and Young Adult Survey 1994-2008 (Ages 18+)

Religious Practice: Only 9 percent of adults who attended weekly religious services were heavy drinkers, compared with 19 percent of adults who attended church at least monthly. Among adults who attended church less than once a month, 25 percent were heavy drinkers, followed by adults who had no religious attendance (26 percent).¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979 and Child and Young Adult Survey 1994-2008 (Ages 18+)

Adult Marijuana Use By Religious Practice



Source: 1979 National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, Child and Young Adult Survey (1994-2008)

Religious Practice: Only 19 percent of individuals who attended church at least weekly at the time of the survey had ever used marijuana, compared to 40 percent who attended at least monthly. Fifty-seven percent of individuals who attended church less than monthly had ever used marijuana, compared with 60 percent who never attended church.¹

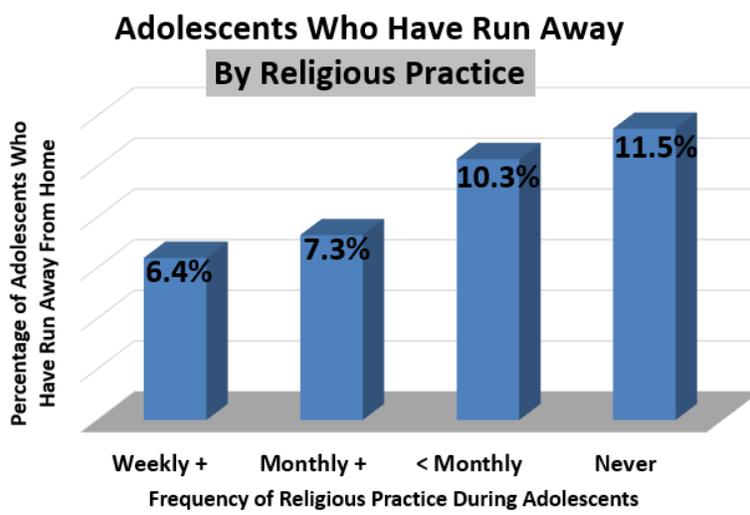
¹ These charts draw on data collected by the 1979 National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, Child and Young Adult (1994-2008)



Risky Behavior



Adolescents Who Have Run Away By Religious Practice

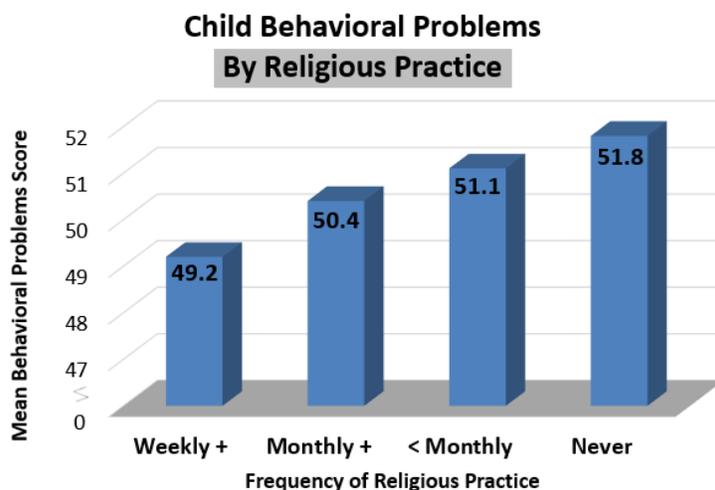


Source: National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, Adolescents Grades 7-12.

Religious Practice: According to the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, 6.4 percent of students in Grades 7-12 who worshipped at least weekly had run away from home. By contrast, 11.5 percent of students who never worshipped had run away from home. In between were those who worshipped one to three times a month (7.3 percent) and those who worshipped less than once a month (10.3 percent).

These charts draw on a large national sample (16,000) from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health. This work was done by the author in cooperation with former colleagues at The Heritage Foundation.

Child Behavioral Problems By Religious Practice



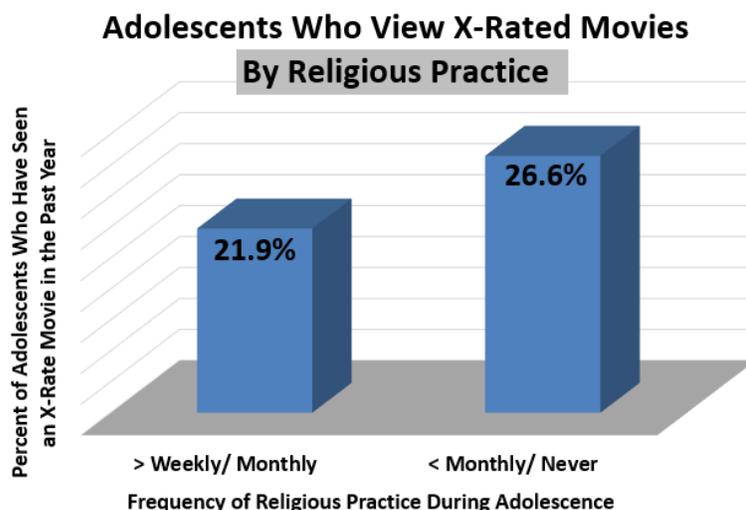
Source: National Survey of Children's Health, Adolescents Aged 6-17.

Religious Practice: According to the National Survey of Children's Health, children who attended religious services at least weekly scored lower on the behavior problems scale (49.2) than those who never attended religious services (51.8).¹ In between were those who worshipped one to three times a month (50.4) and those who attended religious services less than once a month (51.1). Items measured on the behavior problems scale included bullying, disobedience, and acting depressed.

¹ The behavior problems scale has a mean of 50 and a standard deviation of ten.

Items measured on the behavior problems scale include bullying, disobedience, and acting depressed. The behavior problems scale has a mean of 50 and a standard deviation of ten.

Adolescents Who Viewed X-Rated Films By Religious Practice



Source: General Social Survey, 1972-2006

Religious Practice: According to the General Social Survey 21.9 percent of adults who attended religious services at least monthly as adolescents had viewed an X-rated movie in the last year, compared to 26.6 percent of adults who attended worship less than monthly as adolescents.

These charts draw on data collected by the General Social Survey, 1972-2006. From 1972 to 1993, the sample size averaged 1,500 each year. No GSS was conducted in 1979, 1981, or 1992. Since 1994, the GSS has been conducted only in even-numbered years and uses two samples per GSS that total approximately 3,000. In 2006, a third sample was added for a total sample size of 4,510.

Adolescents Who Have Run Away By Religious Practice



Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (1997)

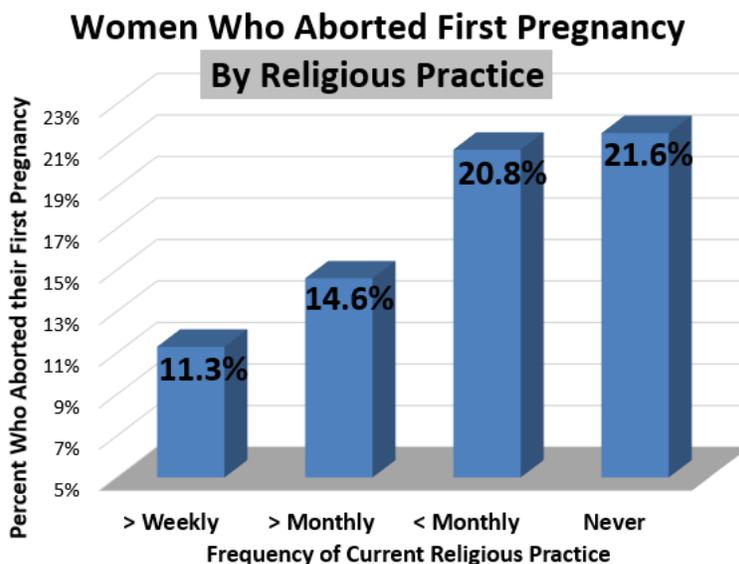
Religious Practice: Youth who attended religious services at least weekly had an average runaway rate of 7 percent, followed by those who attended at least monthly (10 percent), those who attended less than monthly (13 percent), and those who never attended religious services (15 percent).¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (1997).



Pregnancy & Abortion

Women Who Aborted First Pregnancy By Religious Practice

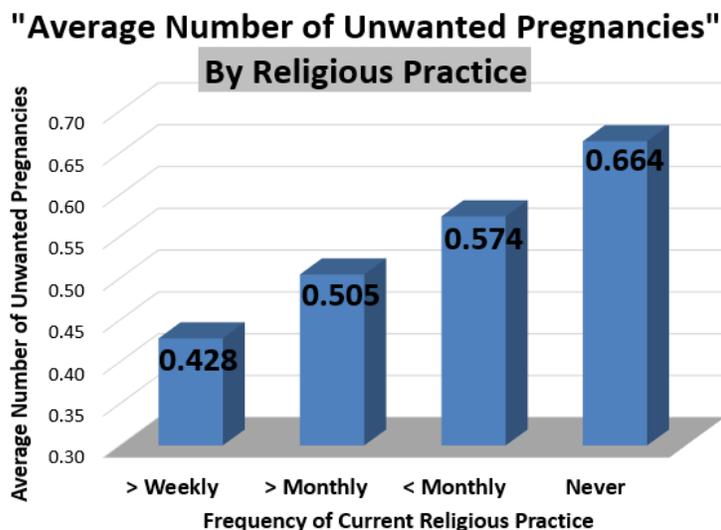


Source: National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 6 (2002)

Religious Practice: According to the National Survey of Family Growth, 11.3 percent of women who worshiped at least weekly aborted their first pregnancy, followed by those who attended religious services between one and three times a month (14.6 percent), those who attended religious services less than once a month (20.8 percent), and those who never attended religious services (21.6 percent).¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 6 (2002). The sample consists of women between the ages of 14 and 44 and numbers 7,643.

“Average Number of Unwanted Pregnancies” By Religious Practice

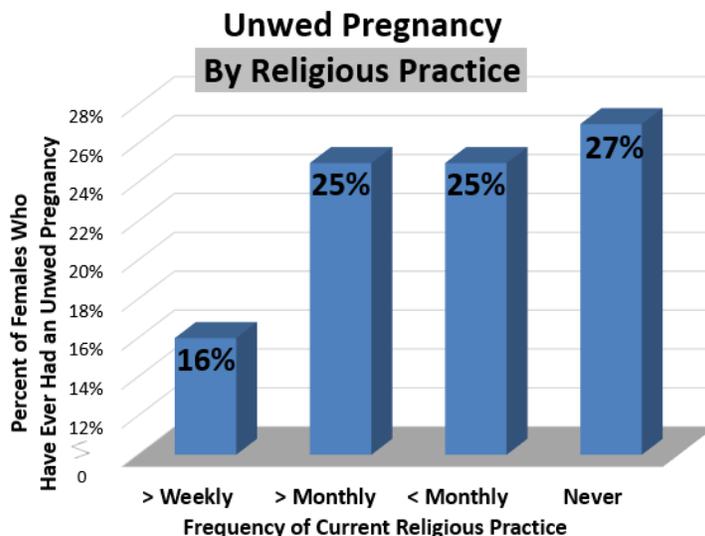


Source: National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 6 (2002)

Religious Practice: The National Survey of Family Growth shows that women who worshipped at least weekly at the time of the survey had an average of 0.43 unwanted pregnancies in their lifetime, followed by women who attended religious services between one and three times a month (0.50), those who attended religious services less than once a month (0.57), and those who never attended religious services (0.66).¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 6 (2002). The sample consists of women between the ages of 14 and 44 and numbers 7,643.

Unwed Pregnancy By Religious Practice

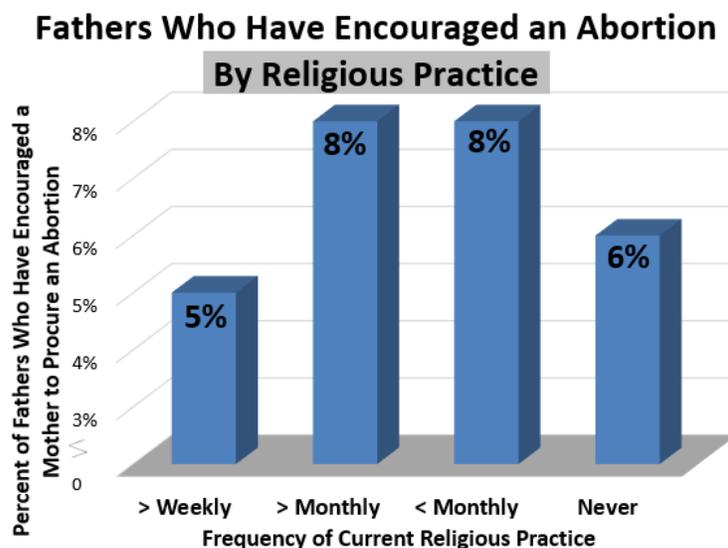


Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (1997)

Family Structure: Nineteen percent of females who grew up in an intact married family have had an unwed pregnancy, followed by females from intact cohabiting families (26 percent), single divorced parent families (36 percent) and married stepfamilies (36 percent), cohabiting stepfamilies (37 percent), and always single parent families (54 percent).¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (1997).

Fathers Who Have Encouraged an Abortion By Religious Practice

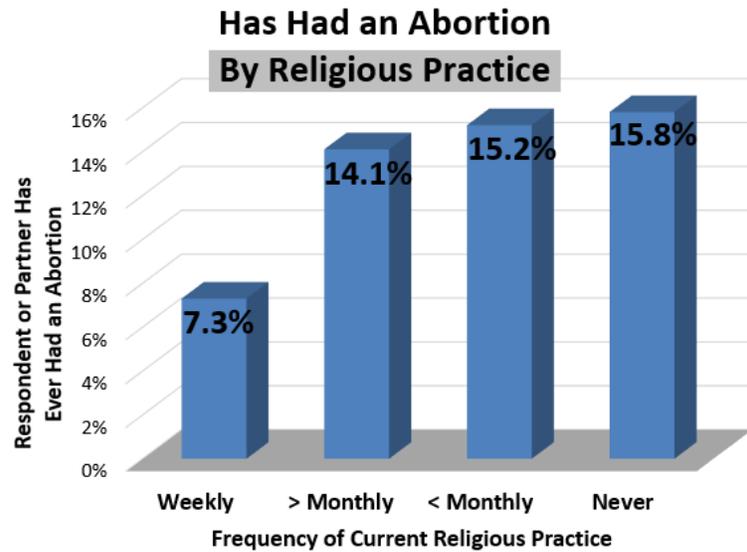


Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (1997)

Religious Practice: Five percent of fathers who attended religious services at least weekly at the time of the survey encouraged a woman to procure an abortion. Six percent of fathers who never attended religious services, 8 percent of fathers who attended religious services at least monthly, and 8 percent of fathers who attended less than once a month encouraged a Mother to abort her child.¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (1997).

Has Ever Had an Abortion By Religious Practice

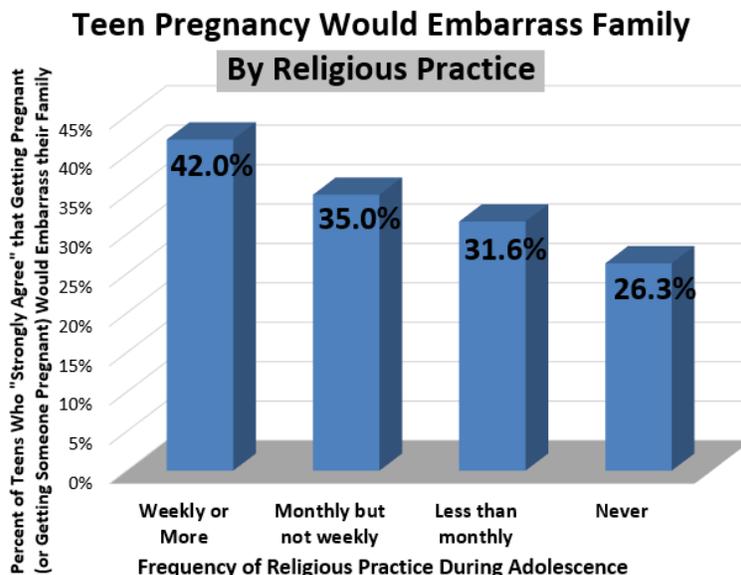


Source: National Health and Social Life Survey (1992)

Religious Practice: Individuals (or their partner) who worshiped weekly were least likely to have procured an abortion (7.3 percent). Of those (or their partner) who worshiped less than weekly, 14.1 percent have procured an abortion, followed by those (or their partner) who worshiped less than monthly (15.2 percent) and those (or their partner) who never worshiped (15.8 percent).¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the 1992 National Health and Social Life Survey
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www.marri.us Christina Hadford

Teen Pregnancy and Family Response By Religious Practice



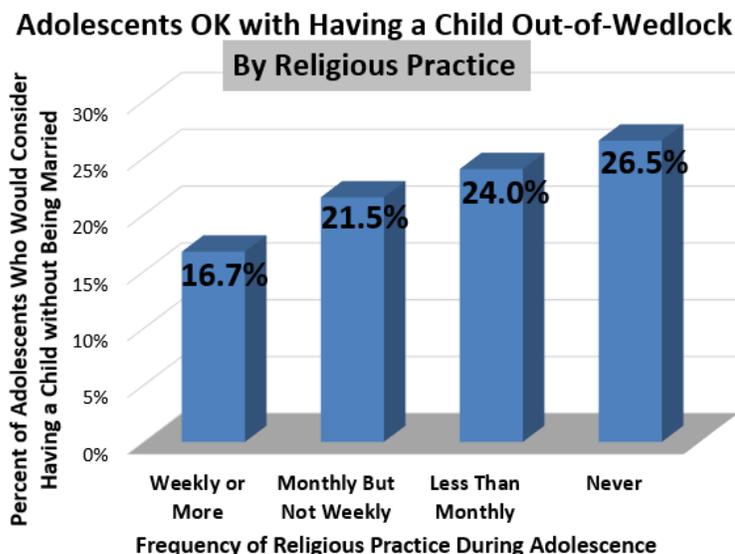
Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Adolescent Health, Wave I

Religious Practice: Teens who frequently worshipped were more likely to strongly agree that getting pregnant (or getting someone pregnant) would embarrass their family. Thirteen- to nineteen-year-olds who attended religious services weekly or more often within the past year were more likely to believe that a pregnancy would embarrass their family (42.0 percent) than those who attended monthly but not weekly (35.0 percent), less than monthly (31.6 percent), or never (26.3 percent).^{1, 2}

¹ The charts draw on data collected by the National Longitudinal Survey of Adolescent Health. The National Longitudinal Survey of Adolescent Health (Add Health) is a congressionally-mandated longitudinal survey of American adolescents. Add Health drew a random sample of adolescents aged 13-19 in 1995 from junior high and high schools (Wave I) and has followed them in successive waves in 2001 (Wave III) and 2009 (Wave IV).

² Respondents were asked to react to the statement "If you got pregnant [males: if you got someone pregnant], it would be embarrassing for your family." Their options included: "strongly agree," "agree," "neither agree nor disagree," "disagree," "strongly disagree," "refused," "don't know," or "not applicable."

Adolescents OK with Having a Child Out-of-Wedlock By Religious Practice



Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Adolescent Health, Wave 1

Religious Practice: For teenagers aged 13 to 19, the likelihood that they would consider having a child out of wedlock differed significantly from one level of worship to another as the following illustrates:

- **Attend Religious Service Weekly or More (16.7 percent):** Least likely
- **Attend Religious Service Monthly but Not Weekly (21.5 percent).**
- **Attend Religious Service Less Than Monthly (24 percent).**
- **Never Attend Religious Service (26.5 percent):** Most likely¹

¹The data come from Wave 1 of the National Longitudinal Survey of Adolescent Health (Add Health). Respondents were asked to respond to the question "Since January 1, with how many people in total have you had a sexual relationship?" Their answers choices were to give a specific number or to answer "refused," "legitimate skip," "don't know," or "not applicable."



Marriage

Marital Happiness By Religious Practice

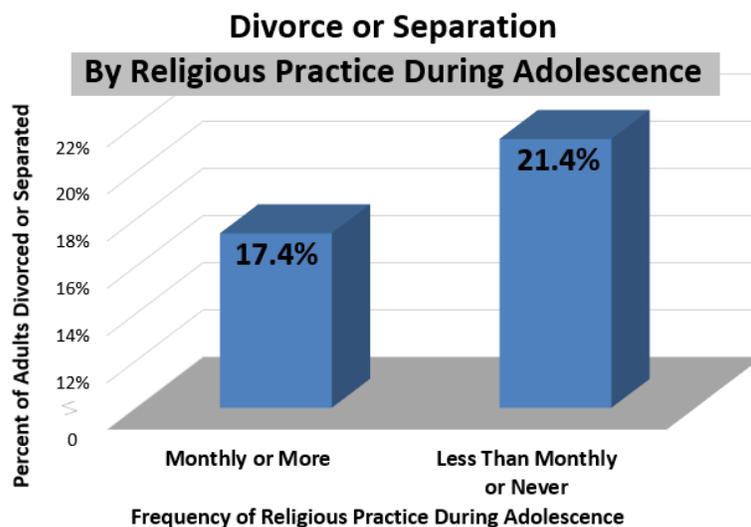


Source: General Social Survey, 1972-2006

Religious Practice: The General Social Survey showed that 64.3 percent of married adults who attended religious services at least monthly as adolescents were very happy with their current marriage, compared to 58 percent of married adults who attended worship less than monthly as adolescents.

These charts draw on data collected by the General Social Survey, 1972-2006. From 1972 to 1993, the sample size averaged 1,500 each year. No GSS was conducted in 1979, 1981, or 1992. Since 1994, the GSS has been conducted only in even-numbered years and uses two samples per GSS that total approximately 3,000. In 2006, a third sample was added for a total sample size of 4,510.

Divorce or Separation By Religious Practice During Adolescence

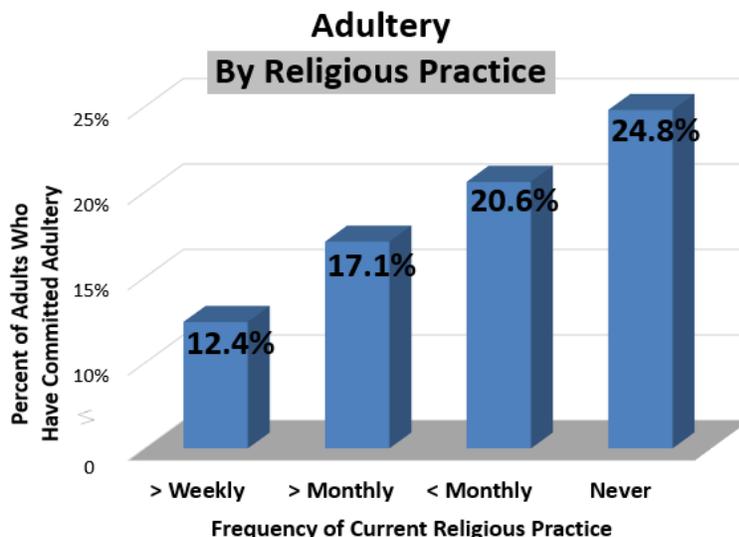


Source: General Social Surveys, 1972-2006

Religious Practice: Adults who frequently attended religious services as adolescents were less likely ever to be divorced or separated than those who did not. According to the General Social Surveys (GSS), 17.4 percent of adults who worshiped at least monthly as adolescents had been divorced or separated, compared to 21.4 percent of adults who worshiped less frequently.

These charts draw on data collected by the General Social Surveys, 1972-2006. From 1972 to 1993, the sample size averaged 1,500 each year. No GSS was conducted in 1979, 1981, or 1992. Since 1994, the GSS has been conducted only in even-numbered years and uses two samples per GSS that total approximately 3,000. In 2006, a third sample was added for a total sample size of 4,510.

Adultery By Religious Practice

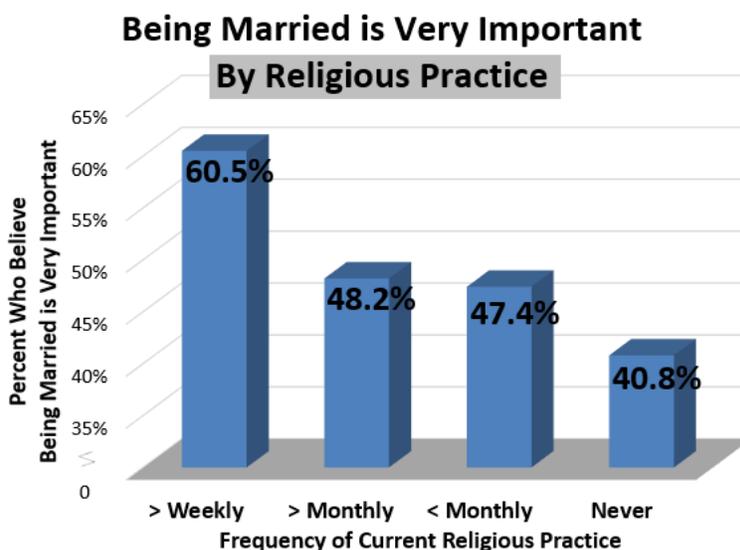


Source: General Social Survey, 1972-2006

Religious Practice: Of adults currently or previously married, those who attended religious services once a week or more at the time of the survey were the least likely to have committed adultery. According to the General Social Surveys (GSS), among adults currently or previously married, 12.4 percent who worshiped once a week or more had had sexual relations with someone other than their spouse, followed by 17.1 percent of those who worshiped between one and three times a month, 20.6 percent of those who worshiped less than once a month, and 24.8 percent of those who never attended religious services.¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the General Social Surveys, 1972-2006. From 1972 to 1993, the sample size averaged 1,500 each year. No GSS was conducted in 1979, 1981, or 1992. Since 1994, the GSS has been conducted only in even-numbered years and uses two samples per GSS that total approximately 3,000. In 2006, a third sample was added for a total sample size of 4,510.

The Importance of Marriage By Religious Practice

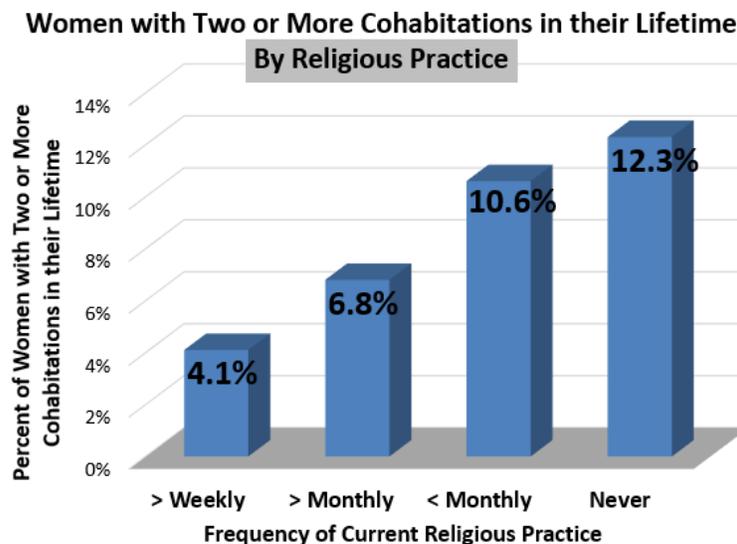


Source: General Social Surveys, 1972-2006

Religious Practice: According to the General Social Survey (GSS), 60.5 percent of adults who worshiped at least weekly reported that being married was either very important to them or one of the most important values they held, followed by 48.2 percent of those who worshiped between one and three times a month, 47.4 percent of those who attended religious services less than once a month, and 40.8 percent of those who never attended religious services.¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the General Social Surveys, 1972-2006. From 1972 to 1993, the sample size averaged 1,500 each year. No GSS was conducted in 1979, 1981, or 1992. Since 1994, the GSS has been conducted only in even-numbered years and uses two samples per GSS that total approximately 3,000. In 2006, a third sample was added for a total sample size of 4,510.

Women with Two or More Cohabitations in their Lifetime By Religious Practice

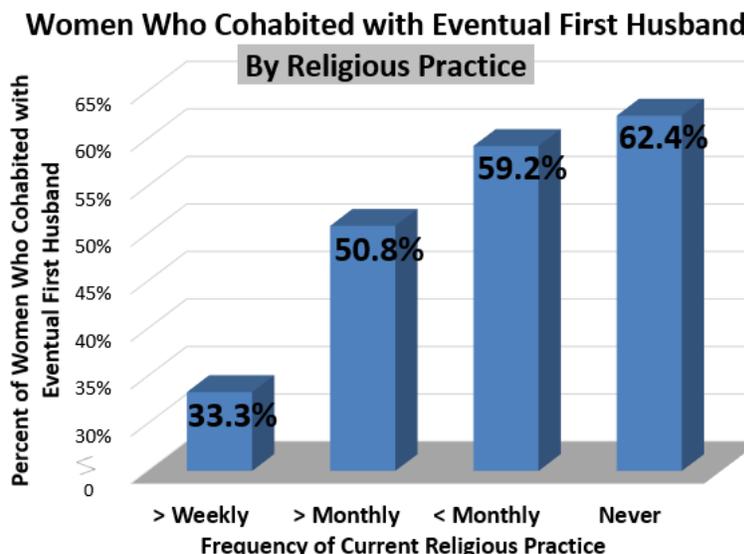


Source: National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 6 (2002)

Religious Practice: The National Survey of Family Growth shows that 4.1 percent of women who worshiped at least weekly at the time of the survey had cohabited two or more times in their lifetime, followed by those who attended religious services between one and three times a month (6.8 percent), those who worshiped less than once a month (10.6 percent), and those who never attended religious services (12.3 percent).¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 6 (2002). The sample consists of 7,643 women between the ages of 14 and 44 who are statistically representative of all U.S. women.

Women Who Cohabited with Eventual First Husband By Religious Practice

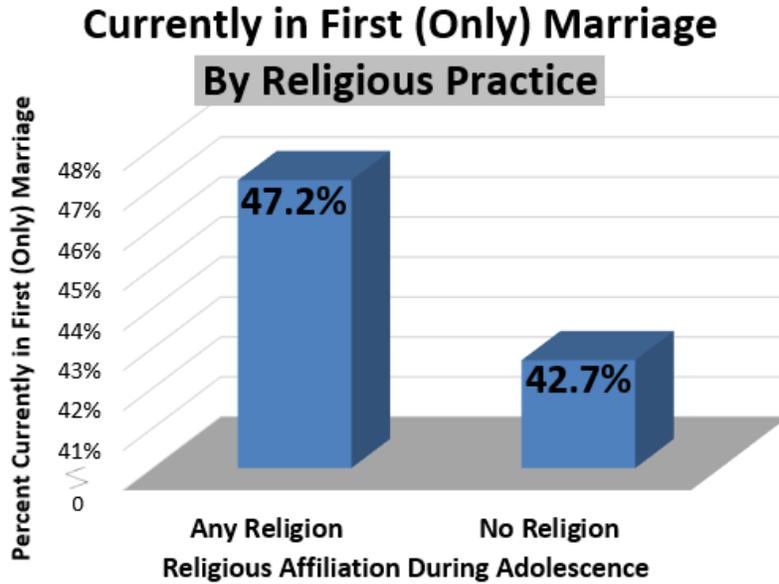


Source: National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 6 (2002)

Religious Practice: The National Survey of Family Growth shows that 33.7 percent of women who worshipped at least weekly were less likely to cohabit with their eventual first husband, followed by those who attended religious services between one and three times a month (61.6 percent), those who attended religious services less than once a month (66.8 percent), and those who never attended religious services (69.8 percent).¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 6 (2002). The sample consists of women between the ages of 14 and 44 and numbers 7,643.

Currently in First (Only) Marriage By Religious Practice



Source: National Survey of Family Growth, 2002

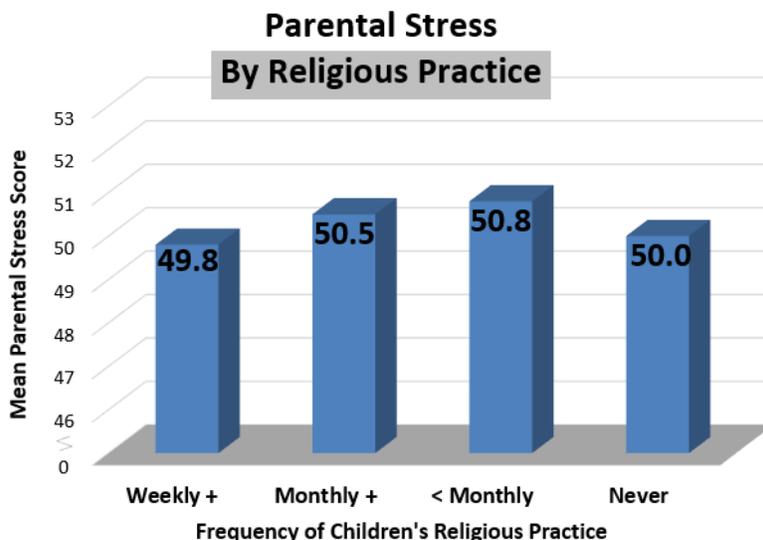
Religious Practice: At the time of the survey, more women raised in any religious tradition were in their first (only) marriage (47.2 percent) than women who were raised with no religion (42.7 percent). However this is a particularly weak measure of religion and the small difference between the two is not surprising.¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the National Survey of Family Growth, 2002



Family

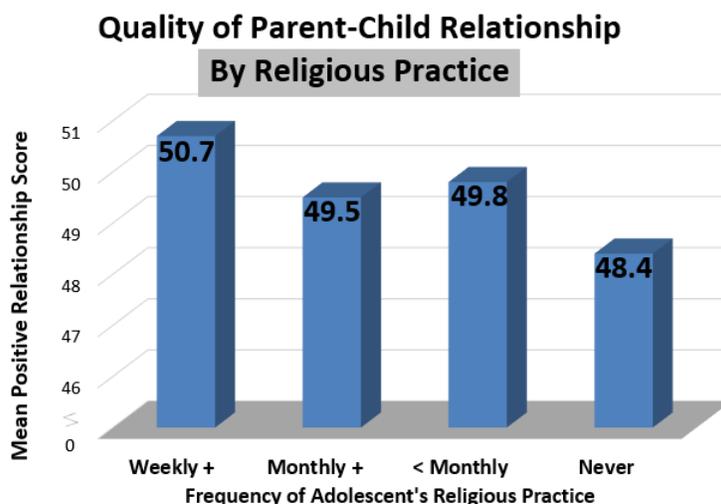
Parental Stress By Religious Practice



Source: National Survey of Children's Health, Adolescents Aged 6-17.

Religious Practice: Based on the National Survey of Children's Health, parents whose children attended religious services at least weekly scored lower on the parenting stress scale (49.8) than those who worshipped less than once a month (50.8). In between were those who worshipped one to three times a month (50.5) and those who never attended religious services (50).

Quality of Parent-Child Relationship By Religious Practice

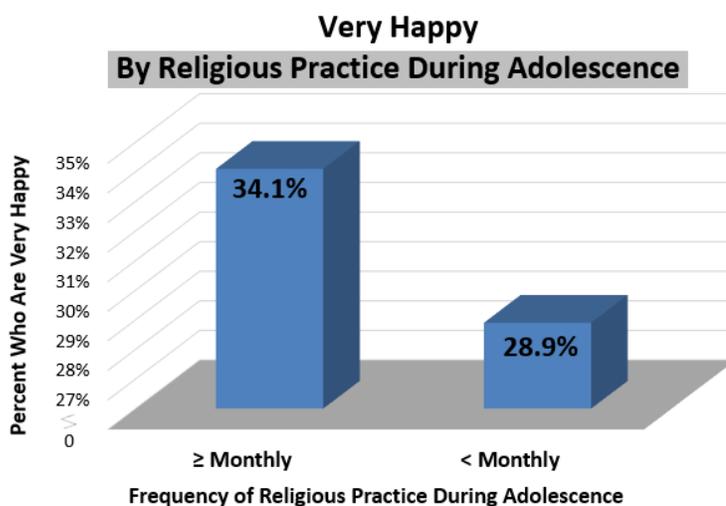


Source: National Center for Health Statistics in the National Survey of Children's Health (2003)

Religious Practice: Children who attended religious services at least weekly scored higher on the positive parental relationship scale (50.7) than children who never attended religious services (48.4). In between were children who worshipped one to three times a month (49.5) and children who attended religious services less than once a month (49.8).

These charts draw on data collected by the National Center for Health Statistics in the National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) in 2003. The data sample consisted of parents of 102,353 children and teens in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. 68,996 of these children and teens were between six and 17 years old, the age group that was the focus of the study. The survey sample in this age range represented a population of nearly 49 million young people nationwide.

Happiness By Religious Practice

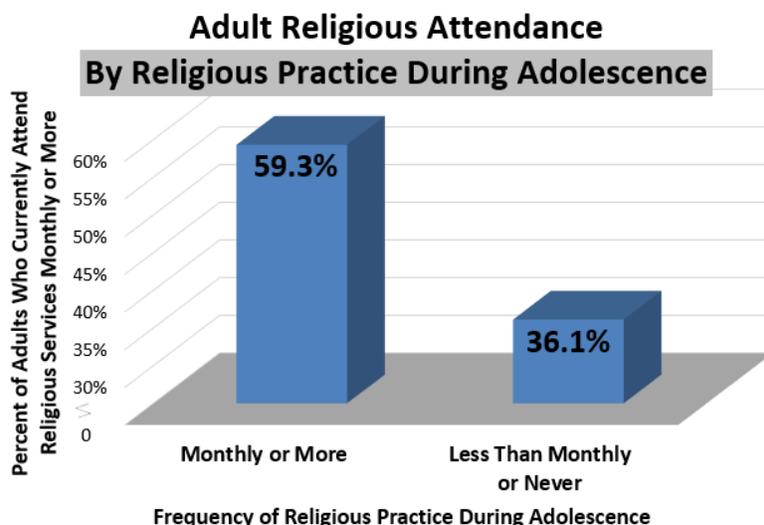


Source: General Social Survey, 1972-2006.

Religious Practice: The 1972-2006 General Social Survey shows that 34.1 percent of adults who attended religious services at least monthly as adolescents considered themselves very happy, compared to 28.9 percent of adults who attended worship less than monthly as adolescents.

These charts draw on data collected by the General Social Survey, 1972-2006. From 1972 to 1993, the sample size averaged 1,500 each year. No GSS was conducted in 1979, 1981, or 1992. Since 1994, the GSS has been conducted only in even-numbered years and uses two samples per GSS that total approximately 3,000. In 2006, a third sample was added for a total sample size of 4,510.

Adult Religious Attendance By Religious Practice During Adolescence

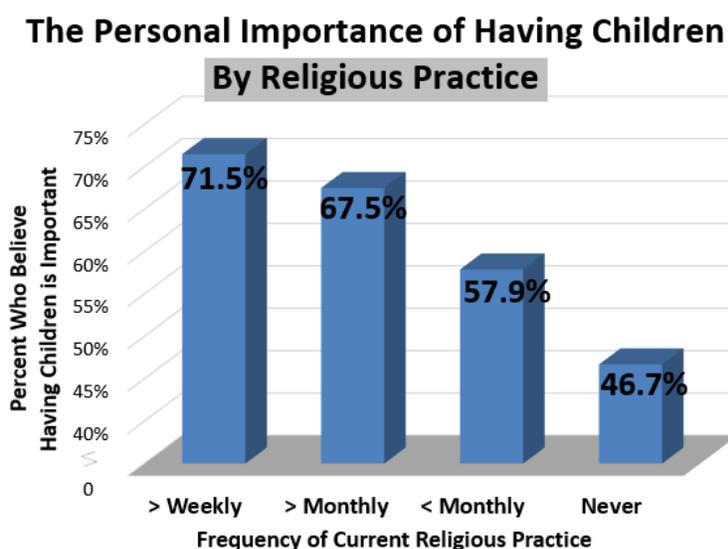


Source: General Social Survey, 1972-2006

Religious Practice: According to the General Social Surveys (GSS), 59.3 percent of adults who worshipped at least monthly as adolescents now worship at least monthly as adults. In contrast, 36.1 percent of adults who worshipped less than monthly as adolescents now worship monthly or more frequently as adults.

These charts draw on data collected by the General Social Survey, 1972-2006. From 1972 to 1993, the sample size averaged 1,500 each year. No GSS was conducted in 1979, 1981, or 1992. Since 1994, the GSS has been conducted only in even-numbered years and uses two samples per GSS that total approximately 3,000. In 2006, a third sample was added for a total sample size of 4,510.

The Personal Importance of Having Children By Religious Practice



Source: General Social Survey, 1972-2006

Religious Practice: According to the General Social Survey (GSS), 71.5 percent of adults who worshiped at least weekly believed in the importance of having their own children, followed by 67.5 percent of those who worshiped between one and three times a month, 57.9 percent of those who attended religious services less than once a month, and 46.7 percent of those who never attended religious services.¹

¹ These charts draw on data collected by the General Social Surveys, 1972-2006. From 1972 to 1993, the sample size averaged 1,500 each year. No GSS was conducted in 1979, 1981, or 1992. Since 1994, the GSS has been conducted only in even-numbered years and uses two samples per GSS that total approximately 3,000. In 2006, a third sample was added for a total sample size of 4,510.



Societal Indicators

Volunteered in Charitable Activities By Religious Practice



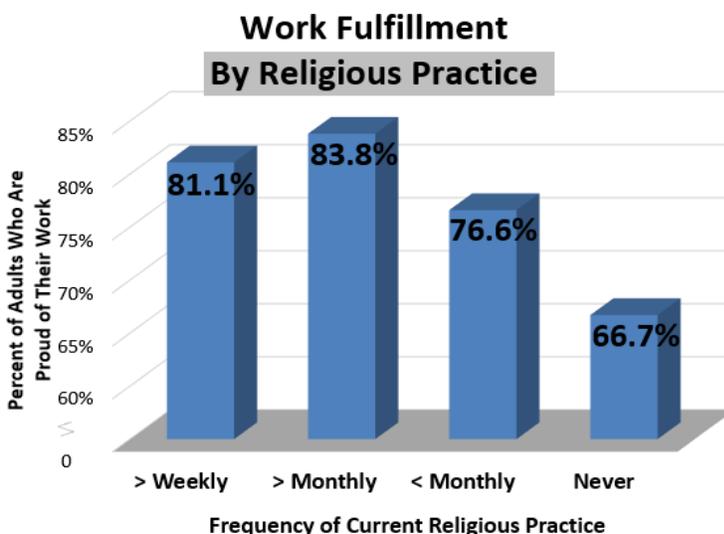
Source: General Social Survey (1998)

Religious Practice: According to the 1998 General Social Survey, 44 percent of adults who attended religious services at least monthly as adolescents had volunteered in a charitable activity in the last year, compared to 33 percent of adults who attended worship less than monthly as adolescents.

These charts draw on data collected by the General Social Survey in 1998. Two samples totaling approximately 3,000 people were used.

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Work Fulfillment By Religious Practice



Source: General Social Surveys, 1972-2006

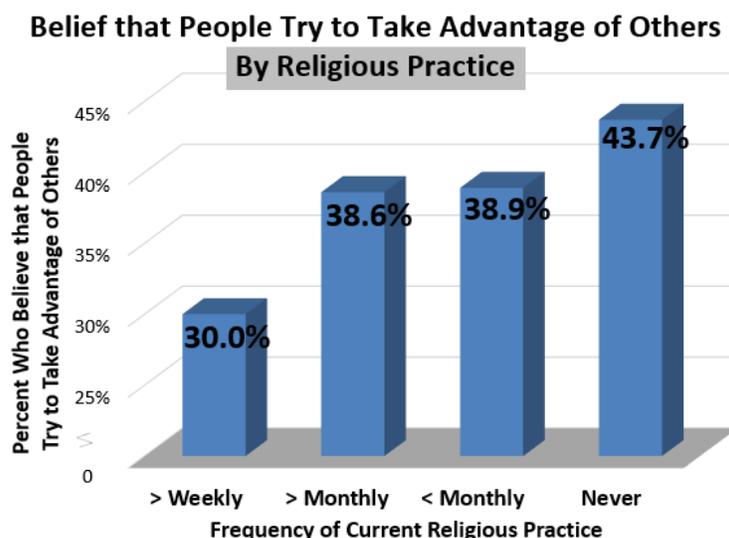
Religious Practice: The 1972-2006 General Social Surveys shows that 83.8 percent of adults who worshipped between one and three times a month took the greatest pride in the work they do, compared to 81.1 percent of those who worshipped at least weekly, 76.6 percent of those who attended religious services less than once a month, and 66.7 percent of those who never attended religious services.

The typical pattern regarding the impact of religious observance on positive outcomes is that those who worship most frequently do best. In this case, those in the second group (one to three times a month) do better, though by only two percentage points, than those who worshipped weekly or more. It is worth looking at the third chart in this series, religious attendance and marriage combined, to note that those in intact families who worshipped weekly took the most pride in their work.

As these data show, adults who worship at least monthly are more likely to be proud of the type of work they do.

These charts draw on data collected by the General Social Surveys, 1972-2006. From 1972 to 1993, the sample size averaged 1,500 each year. No GSS was conducted in 1979, 1981, or 1992. Since 1994, the GSS has been conducted only in even-numbered years and uses two samples per GSS that total approximately 3,000. In 2006, a third sample was added for a total sample size of 4,510.

“Belief that People Try to Take Advantage of Others” By Religious Practice



Source: General Social Survey, 1972-2006

Religious Practice: According to the General Social Survey (GSS), 43.7 percent of adults who never attended religious services believed that, given the opportunity, most people would try to take advantage of others, followed by 38.9 percent of those who attended religious services less than once a month, 38.6 percent of those who worshiped between one and three times a month, and 30 percent of those who worshiped at least weekly.¹

¹These charts draw on data collected by the General Social Survey, 1972-2006. From 1972 to 1993, the sample size averaged 1,500 each year. No GSS was conducted in 1979, 1981, or 1992. Since 1994, the GSS has been conducted only in even-numbered years and uses two samples per GSS that total approximately 3,000. In 2006, a third sample was added for a total sample size of 4,510.