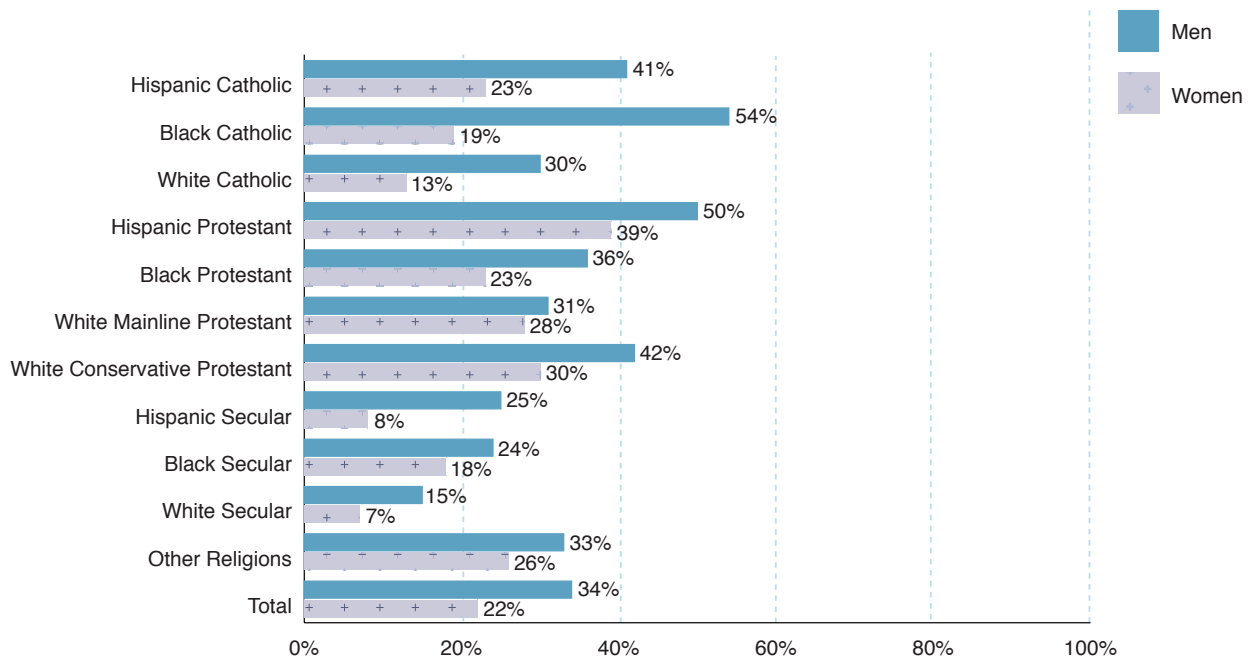


J-6 Religion and Attitudes Toward Sex and Childbearing⁷³

J-6.1 Percent of Young Adults Age 20–29 Who Disagree that It Is OK for an Unmarried Woman to Have a Child, by Religious Tradition,⁷⁴ Gender, and Race/Ethnicity^{75, 76}

- ▲ Attitudes regarding nonmarital childbearing varied by the denominations shown below.
- ▲ Overall, roughly one-third (34%) of men age 20–29 disagree that it is OK for an unmarried woman to have a child compared to 22% of women age 20–29.
- ▲ Across all racial/ethnic subgroups and religious traditions, a greater percentage of men age 20–29 than women age 20–29 believe that an unmarried women should not have a child. Differences by gender were more notable among Catholic young adults.



73. The intent of these results is not to imply a causal relationship between religiosity and behaviors related to sexual activity and relationships; rather to show the extent to which these behaviors play a role in the lives of young adults across religious affiliation and practice.

74. Breakouts for religious tradition focus on the categories of major religious/secular traditions that Wilcox has highlighted in his work and that could be observed in sufficiently large numbers across multiple data sets.

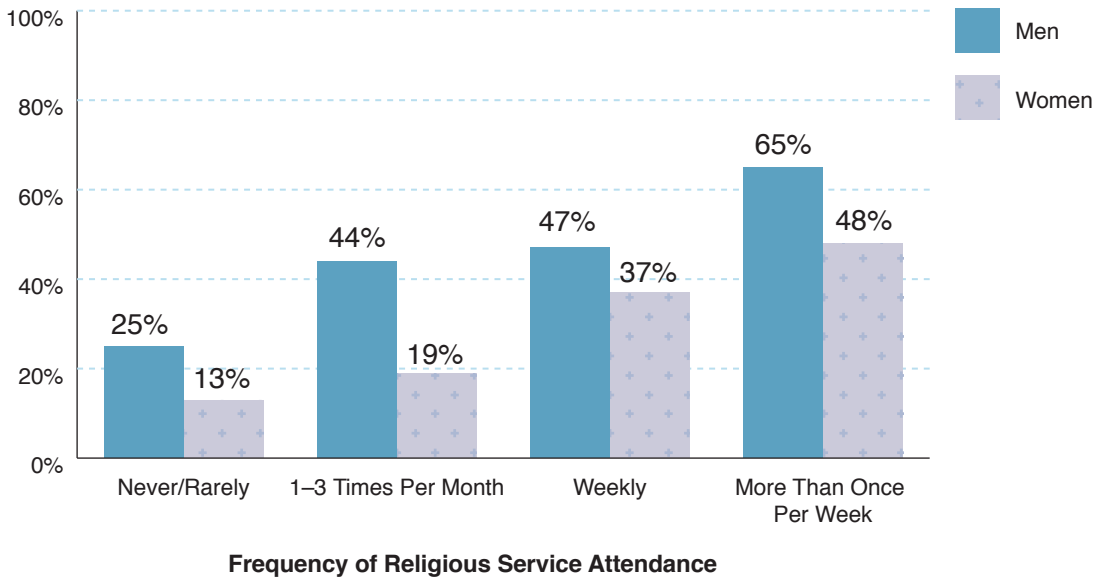
75. Source: Special Tabulations of the *National Survey of Family Growth, 2002*. National Center for Health Statistics. As presented in: Wilcox, W.B. (2008). Religion, Sex, Childbearing, and Marriage: Associations among Various Demographic Groups. University of Virginia, Department of Sociology. (Not Published).

76. Due to small sample sizes, results are not presented for some of the religious traditions.

Percent of Young Adults Age 20–29 Who Disagree that It Is OK for an Unmarried Woman to Have a Child, by Religious Tradition, Gender, and Race/Ethnicity		
	Men	Women
Catholic		
Hispanic	41%	23%
Black	54%	19%
White	30%	13%
Protestant		
Hispanic	50%	39%
Black	36%	23%
White Mainline	31%	28%
White Conservative	42%	30%
Secular		
Hispanic	25%	8%
Black	24%	18%
White	15%	7%
Other Religion	33%	26%
Total	34%	22%

J-6.2 Percent of Young Adults Age 20–29 Who Disagree that It Is OK for an Unmarried Woman to Have a Child, by Religious Service Attendance, Gender, and Race/Ethnicity⁷⁷

- ▲ Overall, increased religious attendance is linked to more traditional views about whether it is “ok” for an unmarried female to have a child for both twenty-something men and twenty-something women.
- ▲ One-quarter of twenty-something men who never or rarely attend religious service disagree that unmarried childbearing is OK compared to nearly half or more who attend weekly or more.



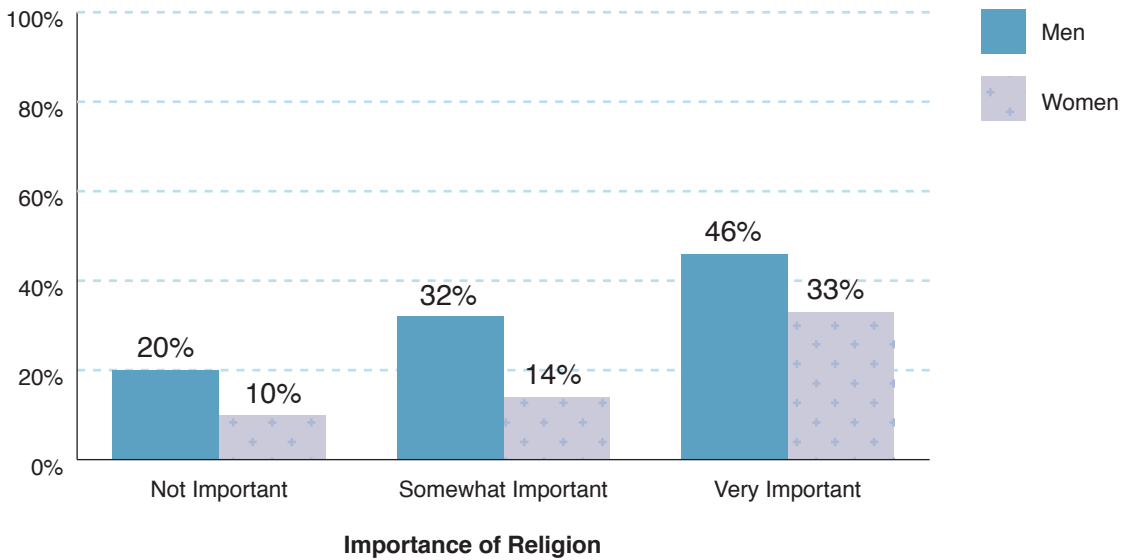
Percent of Young Adults Age 20–29 Who Disagree that It Is OK for an Unmarried Woman to Have a Child, by Religious Service Attendance, Gender, and Race/Ethnicity				
	Never/Rarely	1–3 Times Per Month	Almost Weekly or Weekly	More Than Once Per Week
Men				
White	20%	33%	51%	70%
Black	26%	47%	41%	71%
Hispanic	33%	53%	42%	54%
Total ⁷⁸	25%	44%	47%	65%
Women				
White	10%	17%	41%	65%
Black	14%	22%	31%	38%
Hispanic	18%	21%	29%	49%
Total	13%	19%	37%	48%

77. Source: Special Tabulations of the *National Survey of Family Growth, 2002*. National Center for Health Statistics. As presented in: Wilcox, W.B. (2008). *Religion, Sex, Childbearing, and Marriage: Associations among Various Demographic Groups*. University of Virginia, Department of Sociology. (Not Published).

78. Note that the total includes young adults from other races/ethnicities (not shown).

J-6.3 Percent of Young Adults Age 20–29 Who Disagree that It Is OK for an Unmarried Woman to Have a Child, by Importance of Religion, Gender, and Race/Ethnicity⁷⁹

- ▲ Similar to religious attendance, greater religious salience (as measured by the importance of religion) is associated with lower levels of approval for non-marital childbearing.
- ▲ One in ten women who report that religion is not important disagree that it is OK for an unmarried women to have a child compared to one-third (33%) of women who report that religion is very important. A similar pattern is found among men, but the overall proportion who disagree with the statement is slightly higher than women at all levels of religious salience.



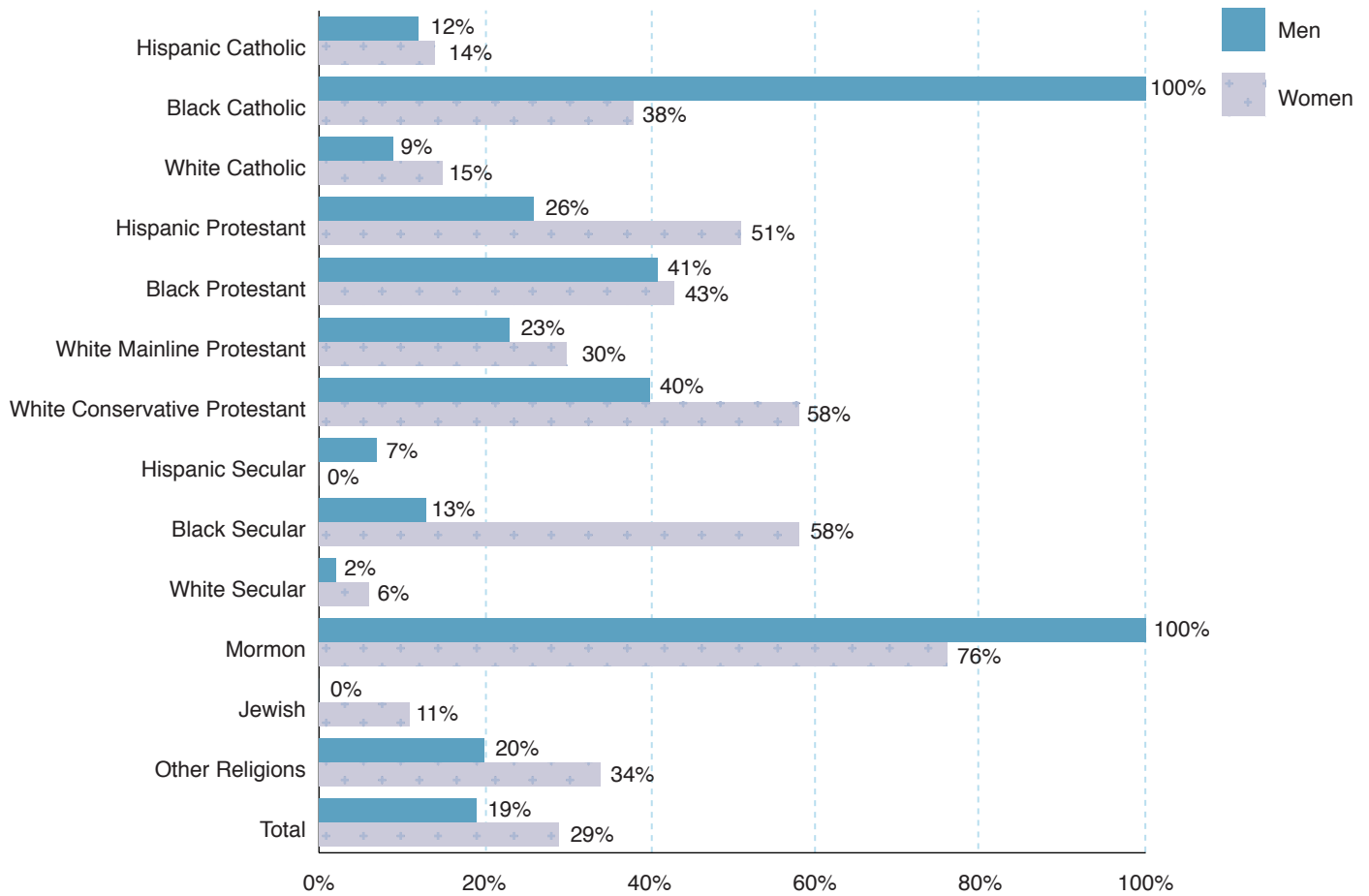
Percent of Young Adults Age 20–29 Who Disagree that It Is OK for an Unmarried Woman to Have a Child, by Importance of Religion, Gender, and Race/Ethnicity			
	Not Important	Somewhat Important	Very Important
Men			
White	17%	28%	45%
Black	22%	34%	42%
Hispanic	24%	37%	51%
Total ⁸⁰	20%	32%	55%
Women			
White	8%	13%	46%
Black	17%	13%	36%
Hispanic	11%	19%	31%
Total	10%	14%	33%

79. Source: Special Tabulations of the *National Survey of Family Growth, 2002*. National Center for Health Statistics. As presented in: Wilcox, W.B. (2008). Religion, Sex, Childbearing, and Marriage: Associations among Various Demographic Groups. University of Virginia, Department of Sociology. (Not Published).

80. Note that the total includes young adults from other races/ethnicities (not shown).

J-6.4 Percent of Young Adults Age 20–29 Who Believe Premarital Sex is Always or Almost Always Wrong, by Religious Tradition,⁸¹ Gender, and Race/Ethnicity⁸²

- ▲ Attitudes regarding premarital sex also varied widely by the denominational groups presented below, ranging from 0% to 100%.
- ▲ The percentage who agree that premarital sex is always or almost always wrong tends to be higher for women than men, across most denominational subgroups.



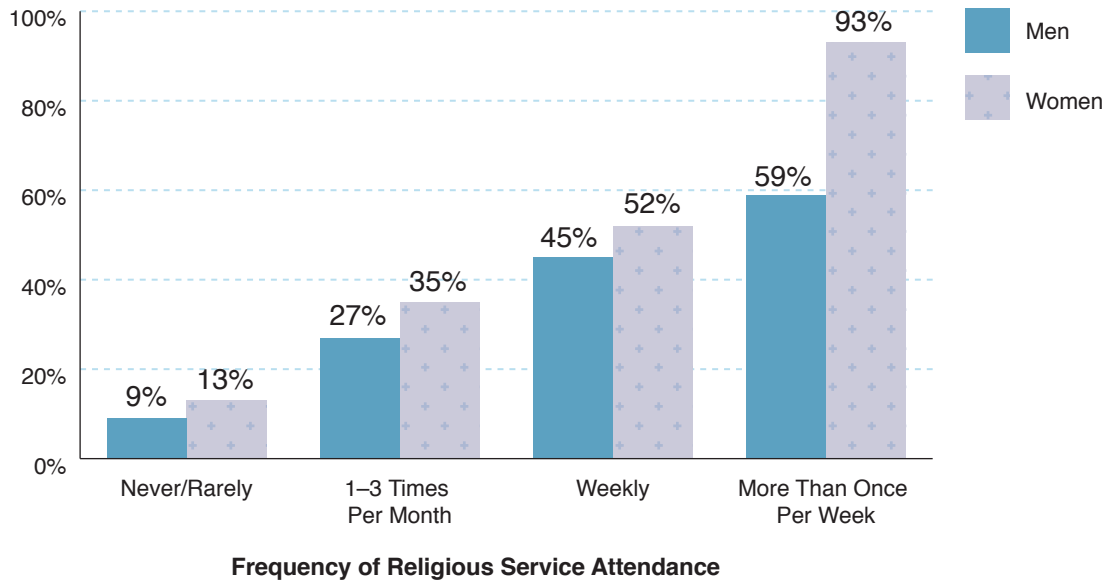
81. Breakouts for religious tradition focus on the categories of major religious/secular traditions that Wilcox has highlighted in his work and that could be observed in sufficiently large numbers across multiple data sets.

82. Source: Special Tabulations of the *General Social Surveys, 2000–2006*. National Opinion Research Center. As presented in: Wilcox, W.B. (2008). *Religion, Sex, Childbearing, and Marriage: Associations among Various Demographic Groups*. University of Virginia, Department of Sociology. (Not Published).

Percent of Young Adults Age 20–29 Who Believe Premarital Sex is Always or Almost Always Wrong, by Religious Tradition, Gender, and Race/Ethnicity		
	Men	Women
Catholic		
Hispanic	12%	14%
Black	100%	38%
White	9%	15%
Protestant		
Hispanic	26%	51%
Black	41%	43%
White Mainline	23%	30%
White Conservative	40%	58%
Secular		
Hispanic	7%	0%
Black	13%	58%
White	2%	6%
Mormon	100%	76%
Jewish	0%	11%
Other Religion	20%	34%
Total	19%	29%

J-6.5 Percent of Young Adults Age 20–29 Who Believe Premarital Sex Is Almost Always Wrong, by Religious Service Attendance and Gender^{83, 84}

- ▲ Religious attendance is linked to more traditional views on premarital sex for all young adults age 20–29. This remains the case after controlling for background characteristics.
- ▲ Among men, the percent who believe premarital sex is wrong rises consistently (from 9% to 59%) as attendance becomes more frequent.
- ▲ Similarly, for women, the percent who believe premarital sex is wrong ranges from 13% of those who never or rarely attend religious services to 93% of those who attend more than weekly.



Percent of Young Adults Age 20–29 Who Believe Premarital Sex Is Almost Always Wrong, by Religious Service Attendance and Gender				
	Never/Rarely	1–3 Times Per Month	Weekly	More than Once per Week
Men				
White	7%	28%	55%	59%
Black	34%	37%	46%	33%
Hispanic	2%	24%	28%	71%
Total ⁸⁵	9%	27%	45%	59%
Women				
White	11%	43%	56%	91%
Black	41%	40%	45%	95%
Hispanic	5%	3%	47%	100%
Total	13%	35%	52%	93%

83. Note: Due to sample size limitations in the *General Social Surveys*, “More Than Once Per Week” was not included.

84. Source: Special Tabulations of the *General Social Surveys, 2000–2006*. National Opinion Research Center. As presented in: Wilcox, W.B. (2008). Religion, Sex, Childbearing, and Marriage: Associations among Various Demographic Groups. University of Virginia, Department of Sociology. (Not Published).

85. Note that the total includes young adults from other races/ethnicities (not shown).