



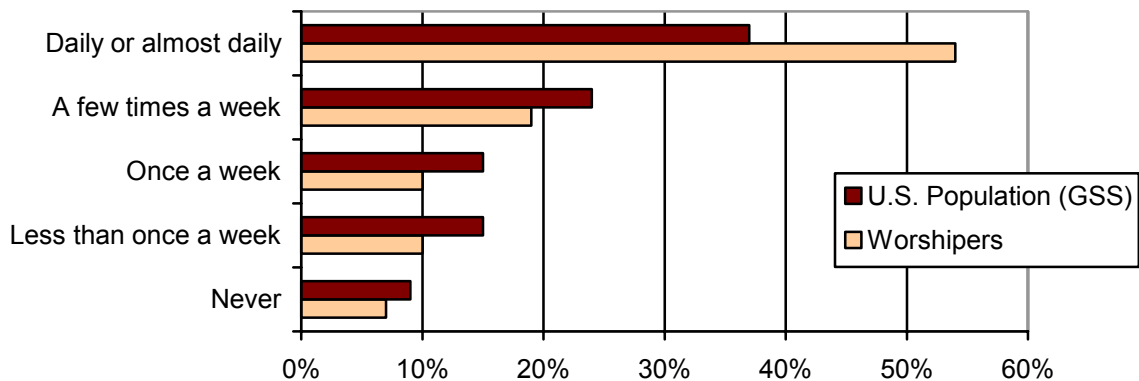
## How Do Worshipers Keep Informed? Findings from the U.S. Congregational Life Survey

News arrives from a wide variety of sources today—national and local newspapers, news programs on the major television networks, and an increasing number of all-news television channels. Other evidence shows that worshipers are involved in their communities in many ways ([link to community results](#)). Does this involvement include staying informed about the community and the world? What did worshipers from over 2,000 congregations that participated in the U.S. Congregational Life Survey<sup>1</sup> tell us about the ways they keep up with what is going on in the world?

### Are Worshipers Daily Newspaper Readers?

- Worshipers are more likely than the U.S. population as a whole to read the newspaper on a daily or almost daily basis (54% of worshipers do compared to 37% of the population at large). Figure 1 shows newspaper reading behavior for worshipers and, from the 2000 General Social Survey (GSS), for a random sample of the U.S. population.

**Figure 1: Newspaper Reading**



- Which worshipers are more likely to be daily newspaper readers? Older worshipers, those who are not employed, those who have no children living at home, men, and those with at least a college degree are more likely to say they read the newspaper on a daily or almost daily basis.

### How Much Television News Do Worshipers Watch?

- Worshipers are moderate television news watchers. Most (73%) watch television news programming two hours per day or less, with 27% watching for less than one hour, and 6% not watching at all on an average day.
- Which worshipers watch more television news? Older worshipers, those who are not employed, those with no children living at home, and those with no more than a high school education are more likely to say they watch *more than an hour* of television news programming on a typical day.

- Most worshipers who are daily or almost daily newspaper readers (66%) watch between one and five hours of news programming each day. Of those who never read the newspaper a surprising percentage also see little television news programming—about 44% of those who don't read the newspaper watch less than an hour of news programming on a typical day. At the other extreme, we find a few news junkies—5% of daily newspaper readers also watch more than ten hours of news on television each day, as well.

## **Data Sources**

U.S. Congregational Life Survey (2001). Cynthia Woolever and Deborah Bruce. Louisville, Kentucky: U.S. Congregations and Research Services, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

General Social Survey (2000). James Allan Davis and Tom W. Smith. Chicago: National Opinion Research Center.

## **To Cite this Source**

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<sup>1</sup> Over 300,000 worshipers in over 2,000 congregations took part in the U.S. Congregational Life Survey in April 2001. Congregations were selected to be representative of all congregations across the country. For more information: [www.USCongregations.org](http://www.USCongregations.org)