Topline Questionnaire

Total N=2,561 adults. │ Interview dates: November 13–14, 2019.

Note: All results shown are percentages. An asterisk (*) replaces percentages greater than zero but less than 0.5 percent. Responses may not total to 100 percent due to rounding.

ASK ALL:
Q. 1   How often, if at all, did you participate in the following activities growing up?
[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

A.   Attending religious services with your family

13	More than once a week
27	Once a week
8	Once or twice a month
12	A few times a year
16	Seldom
24	Never

B.   Saying grace or praying with your family at meals

33	More than once a week
7	Once a week
6	Once or twice a month
10	A few times a year
16	Seldom
27	Never

C.   Celebrating religious holidays at home

9	More than once a week
7	Once a week
6	Once or twice a month
50	A few times a year
11	Seldom
18	Never

D.   Reading scripture or praying with your family

19   More than once a week
9   Once a week
7   Once or twice a month
8   A few times a year
19   Seldom
38   Never

E.   Attending Sunday school or another religious education program

14   More than once a week
26   Once a week
7   Once or twice a month
6   A few times a year
14   Seldom
32   Never

Q.2   In what religion were you raised, if any?

38   Protestant (Baptist, Methodist, Non-denominational, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Episcopalian, Reformed, Church of Christ, Jehovah's Witness, etc.)
29   Roman Catholic (Catholic)
2   Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints/LDS)
1   Orthodox Christian (Greek, Russian or some other orthodox church)
2   Jewish
1   Muslim
*   Buddhist
*   Hindu
2   Atheist
2   Agnostic
8   Nothing in particular
12   Just Christian
1   Something else **[SPECIFY]**

Q. 3   Now, read each statement and please say whether you agree or disagree with each one . . .
[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

A.   Religion causes more problems in society than it solves

19   Completely agree
26   Somewhat agree
23   Somewhat disagree
33   Completely disagree

B.   It is important for children to be brought up in a religion so they can learn good values

35   Completely agree
30   Somewhat agree
14   Somewhat disagree
21   Completely disagree

C.   It is necessary to believe in God in order to be moral and have good values

24   Completely agree
24   Somewhat agree
20   Somewhat disagree
32   Completely disagree

D.   Religious people are generally less tolerant of others

17   Completely agree
30   Somewhat agree
29   Somewhat disagree
24   Completely disagree

Q. 4   What was the marital status of your parents during most of the time you were growing up? Were they . . .

68   Married
11   Divorced
3   Separated
3   Widowed
14   Never married

Q. 5   Thinking about when you were a child, how would you describe your parents' religious backgrounds?

42   Both parents were religious, and had same religious background
11   Both parents were religious, but had different religious beliefs or backgrounds
21   One parent was religious, other parent was not that religious
26   Neither parent was that religious

Q. 6   Which of the following best describes your views about the existence of God?

51   I believe in God, and never have doubts
28   I believe in God, but sometimes have doubts
9   I do NOT believe in God, but sometimes have doubts
12   I do NOT believe in God, and never have doubts

ASK IF MARRIED/LIVING WITH A PARTNER [N=1,393]:
Q. 7 What is your current spouse's or partner's religion, if any?

36	Protestant (Baptist, Methodist, Non-denominational, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Episcopalian, Reformed, Church of Christ, Jehovah's Witness, etc.)
26	Roman Catholic (Catholic)
1	Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints/LDS)
1	Orthodox Christian (Greek, Russian or some other orthodox church)
2	Jewish
1	Muslim
0	Buddhist
*	Hindu
5	Atheist
4	Agnostic
12	Nothing in particular
11	Just Christian
1	Something else **[SPECIFY]**

ASK IF MARRIED [N=1,175]:
Q.8 When you were married, which of the following best describes the setting? Were you married by a . . .

47	Religious leader, in a church or religious setting
14	Religious leader, in a nonreligious location
30	Justice of the peace or other official, in a nonreligious location
9	Friend or family member in a nonreligious location

ASK IF NEVER MARRIED OR HAVE A PARTNER [N=927]:
Q.9 Regardless of whether you are planning on getting married, which of the following describes your preferred setting? In general, would you prefer to be married by a . . .

30	Religious leader, in a church or religious setting
14	Religious leader, in a nonreligious location
29	Justice of the peace or other official, in a nonreligious location
27	Friend or family member in a nonreligious location

ASK ALL:
Q.10 Are you the parent of any children in the following age groups? Please select all that apply.

11	0 to 6 years old
12	7 to 12 years old
11	13 to 17 years old
40	Age 18 years or older
39	I do not have children **[EXCLUSIVE]**

ASK IF PARENT OF CHILD(REN) YOUNGER THAN 18 YEARS OLD [N=656]:

Q.11 Do you do any of the following with your child or children who are younger than 18 years old? [RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

A.   Pray or read scripture with them

44   Yes
56   No

B.   Send them to Sunday school or another religious education program

38   Yes
62   No

C.   Take them to religious services regularly

42   Yes
58   No

ASK IF PARENT OF CHILD(REN) AGE 18 OR OLDER [N=1,006]:

Q.12 Did you do any of the following with your child or children who are 18 years old or older when they were growing up?

A.   Pray or read scripture with them

46   Yes
54   No

B.   Send them to Sunday school or another religious education program

57   Yes
43   No

C.   Take them to religious services regularly

54   Yes
46   No

ASK ALL:

Q.13 Now, thinking about the people you know. Do you have any close friends or family members who are . . . [RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

A.   Atheist

49   Yes
51   No

B.   Catholic

71   Yes
29   No

C.   Evangelical Christian

50   Yes
50   No

D.   Gay or lesbian

60   Yes
40   No

E.   Muslim

21   Yes
79   No

Q.14   What is your present religion, if any?

30   Protestant (Baptist, Methodist, Non-denominational, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Episcopalian, Reformed, Church of Christ, Jehovah's Witness, etc.)
20   Roman Catholic (Catholic)
 1   Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints/LDS)
 1   Orthodox (Greek, Russian, or some other orthodox church)
 2   Jewish (Judaism)
 1   Muslim (Islam)
 1   Buddhist
 *   Hindu
 7   Atheist (do not believe in God)
 6   Agnostic (not sure if there is a God)
14   Nothing in particular
16   Just Christian
 1   Something else **[SPECIFY]**

ASK IF RELIGION IS PROTESTANT, MORMON, ORTHODOX, JUST CHRISTIAN, OR SOMETHING ELSE [N=1,139]:
Q.15   Would you describe yourself as a 'born-again' or evangelical Christian, or not?

52   Yes
48   No

ASK ALL:
Q.16   Have you ever chosen not to share your religious beliefs or views on religion with friends or family members because you thought they might disapprove?

      27   Yes, have chosen not to share
      73   No, have never done this

Q.17   Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services?

       8   More than once a week
     15   Once a week
       8   Once or twice a month
     15   A few times a year
     23   Seldom
     31   Never

ASK IF CURRENTLY UNAFFILIATED (ATHEIST, AGNOSTIC, OR NOTHING IN PARTICULAR) BUT RAISED RELIGIOUS [N=531]:
Q.18   Just thinking in general terms, how old were you when you no longer identified with your childhood religion?

     57   Under age 18
     35   Between 18 and 29 years old
      7   Between 30 and 49 years old
      2   Age 50 or older

ASK IF CURRENTLY UNAFFILIATED (ATHEIST, AGNOSTIC, OR NOTHING IN PARTICULAR) [N=811]:
Q.19   Would you say you are looking for a religion that would be right for you, or are you not doing this?

      5   Yes
     95   No

Survey Methodology

The November 2019 American Perspectives Survey was designed and conducted by the American Enterprise Institute. Interviews were conducted among a sample of 2,561 adults (age 18 and older) living in the United States. Interviews were conducted online using a self-administered design. All interviews were conducted among participants in YouGov's opt-in online panel that includes adults in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Interviewing was conducted between November 13 and November 14, 2019.

Study respondents were drawn from YouGov's panel through a process of purposive sampling whereby panelists are selected to match certain demographic criteria. Panelists are stratified by a combination of age, gender, race, and education, and each stratum is sampled to reflect the overall demographic distribution of the US population. Each sampling component is matched to an artificial sampling frame developed using the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey, the Current Population Survey Voting and Registration Supplement, and other databases. This method of respondent selection is designed to reduce selection bias and noncoverage issues associated with opt-in panels. It also minimizes the need for weighting.

The sample weighting was accomplished by using the joint distribution of demographic and non-demographic variables including gender, age, race, education, religion, voter registration status and 2016 presidential vote (or non-vote). Voter registration was imputed from the Current Population Survey Registration and Voting Supplement. Demographic weighting parameters were derived from the American Community Survey; the parameter for religious affiliation was computed using aggregated survey data collected in 2018–19 by the Pew Research Center. Weights were trimmed to prevent individual interviews from having too much influence on the final results.

Using survey weights in statistical analyses ensures that the demographic characteristics of the sample closely approximate the demographic characteristics of the target population. The margin of error for the survey is +/− 1.9 percentage points.