

Appendix: Selected Religious Beliefs and Practices among Ages 18-29 by Decade

	<u>1970s</u>	<u>1980s</u>	<u>1990s</u>	<u>2000s</u>
<i>Religious Affiliation</i>				
	%	%	%	%
Unaffiliated	12	12	16	23
Affiliated	<u>88</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>77</u>
	100	100	100	100
N	2,722	3,434	2,525	2,711
Question wording: What is your religious preference? Is it Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, some other religion or no religion?				
<i>Service Attendance</i>				
Attend nearly weekly	26	25	22	21
Attend less	<u>74</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>79</u>
	100	100	100	100
N	2,722	3,432	2,486	2,697
Question wording: How often do you attend religious services? [Response categories, used as probes if necessary: Never, less than once a year, about once or twice a year, several times a year, about once a month, 2-3 times a month, nearly every week, every week, several times a week]				
<i>Frequency of prayer</i>				
Pray daily	NA	41	40	45
Pray less		<u>59</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>55</u>
		100	100	100
N		2,130	1,224	1,679
Question wording: About how often do you pray? [Response categories, use as probes if necessary: include: Several times a day, once a day, several times a week, once a week, less than once a week, never.]				
<i>Belief in God</i>				
Certain God exists	NA	55	59	53
Less certain/doesn't exist		<u>45</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>47</u>
		100	100	100
N		356	1,041	1,097
Question wording: Please look at this card and tell me which statement comes closest to expressing what you believe about God: I don't believe in God; I don't know whether there is a God and I don't believe there is any way to find out; I don't believe in a personal God, but I do believe in a Higher Power of some kind; I find myself believing in God some of the time but not at others; While I have doubts, I feel that I do believe in God; I know God really exists and I have no doubts about it.				
<i>Belief in an afterlife</i>				
Believe in afterlife	73	79	80	82
Don't believe	<u>27</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>18</u>
	100	100	100	100
N	1,439	2,298	1,587	1,654
Question wording: Do you believe there is a life after death?				
<i>View of the Bible</i>				
Bible literal word of God	NA	33	31	30
Not literal/book of fables		<u>67</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>70</u>
		100	100	100
N		1,205	1,755	1,810
Question wording: Which of these statements comes closest to describing your feelings about the Bible? The Bible is the actual word of God and is to be taken literally, word for word; The Bible is the inspired word of God but not everything in it should be taken literally, word for word; The Bible is an ancient book of fables, legends, history, and moral precepts recorded by men.				

Source for all items: General Social Surveys. Results based on total answering.