Eastern, New Age Beliefs Widespread

Many Americans Mix Multiple Faiths

Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life
December 2009
Eastern, New Age Beliefs Widespread
MANY AMERICANS MIX MULTIPLE FAITHS

The religious beliefs and practices of Americans do not fit neatly into conventional
categories. A new poll by the Pew Research Center’s Forum on Religion & Public Life finds that
large numbers of Americans engage in multiple religious practices, mixing elements of diverse
traditions. Many say they attend worship services of more than one faith or denomination -- even
when they are not traveling or going to special events like weddings and funerals. Many also
blend Christianity with Eastern or New Age beliefs such as reincarnation, astrology and the
presence of spiritual energy in physical objects. And sizeable minorities of all major U.S.
religious groups say they have experienced supernatural phenomena, such as being in touch with
the dead or with ghosts.

One-third of Americans (35%) say they regularly (9%) or occasionally (26%) attend
religious services at more than one place, and most of these (24% of the public overall) indicate
that they sometimes attend religious services of a faith different from their own. Aside from
when they are

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How often attend other places?</th>
<th>All adults</th>
<th>Protestant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regularly</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occasionally</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Among those

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total attend multiple places</th>
<th>All adults</th>
<th>Protestant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>2,003</td>
<td>1,099</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Circles on cover are not to scale.
or yearly basis, with nearly six-in-ten (59%) saying they attend at multiple places and four-in-ten attending services from outside their own faith at least sometimes.

Religiously mixed marriages are common in the United States, and the survey finds that the link between being in a religiously mixed union and attendance at multiple types of services is a complex one. Overall, people in religiously mixed marriages attend worship services less often than people married to someone of the same faith. But among those who attend religious services at least yearly, those in religiously mixed marriages attend multiple types of services at a higher rate than people married to someone of the same religion.

Though the U.S. is an overwhelmingly Christian country, significant minorities profess belief in a variety of Eastern or New Age beliefs. For instance, 24% of the public overall and 22% of Christians say they believe in reincarnation -- that people will be reborn in this world again and again. And similar numbers (25% of the public overall, 23% of Christians) believe in astrology. Nearly three-in-ten Americans say they have felt in touch with someone who has already died, almost one-in-five say they have seen or been in the presence of ghosts, and 15% have consulted a fortuneteller or a psychic.

Nearly half of the public (49%) says they have had a religious or mystical experience, defined as a “moment of sudden religious insight or awakening.” This is similar to a survey conducted in 2006 but much higher than in surveys conducted in 1976 and 1994 and more than twice as high as a 1962 Gallup survey (22%). In fact, this year’s survey finds that religious and mystical experiences are more common today among those who are unaffiliated with any particular religion (30%) than they were in the 1960s among the public as whole (22%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supernatural Experiences and Beliefs</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Christians</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% who have…</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Been in touch w/dead</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Had ghostly experience</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consulted psychic</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% believe in…</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spiritual energy in trees, etc.</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Astrology</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reincarnation</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yoga as spiritual practice</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evil eye (i.e., casting of curses)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sample size</td>
<td>2,003</td>
<td>1,589</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q291a-Q292c.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ever Had Religious or Mystical Experience?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Feb. 62 and Aug. 76 surveys by Gallup; Nov. 94 by Newsweek; Apr. 06 by Ipsos Q290.
Attendance at Multiple Types of Religious Services

Nearly three-quarters of Americans (72%) say they attend religious services at least a few times a year, including 38% who say they attend at least once a week and 34% who attend once or twice a month or a few times a year. Roughly one-quarter says they seldom or never attend religious services (27%). These figures are roughly consistent with findings from recent years.

Of those who attend at least yearly, roughly half (37% of the public overall) say they always attend services at the same place, while nearly as many (35%) say they regularly or occasionally attend religious services at different places, aside from when they are traveling and going to special events such as weddings and funerals. To estimate the number of Americans who attend multiple types of religious services, the survey followed up by asking people who attend religious services at different places about the types of services (e.g., Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, etc.) they attend. Overall, about one-in-four adults (24%) indicate that they attend services of at least one faith other than their own, and roughly one-in-ten (12%) say they participate in the services of two or more faiths in addition to their own.
Three-in-ten Protestants say they attend multiple types of religious services, including those who attend services at Protestant denominations different than their own; 18% of Protestants indicate that they attend non-Protestant services.

More than four-in-ten black Protestants (42%) and roughly one-quarter of white evangelicals and mainline Protestants (28% and 24%, respectively) regularly or occasionally attend services at a faith other than their own. Among all three groups of Protestants, the most commonly cited type of services attended (other than services of one’s own faith) are those of other Protestant denominations (40% among black Protestants, 24% among white evangelicals and 22% among white mainline Protestants). However, significant numbers within all three Protestant traditions report sometimes attending Catholic Mass; this includes nearly one-in-five black Protestants (19%), 13% of white evangelicals and 14% of mainline Protestants. Fewer say they attend Jewish synagogues or Muslim mosques.

Roughly one-in-five Catholics say they attend services of at least one faith other than Catholicism, with most of these (18% of Catholics overall and 16% of white Catholics) saying they attend Protestant services. About one-in-twenty Catholics report attending services at Jewish synagogues (5%) and 1% say they attend Muslim mosques.
Attending religious services at more than one place is most common among those who attend services only occasionally. Among those who attend services once or twice a month or a few times a year, fully six-in-ten (59%) attend services at more than one place, including four-in-ten who attend religious services of faiths other than their own. Among those who say they attend services on a weekly basis, fewer say they attend at more than one place (39%); still, more than a quarter of Americans who are regular, weekly attenders at religious services (28%) say they also attend services outside their own faith, not counting when they are traveling or special occasions like weddings and funerals. (Respondents who seldom or never attend religious services were not asked about where they attend.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Worship attendance</th>
<th>Spouse</th>
<th>Spouse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At least weekly</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly/Yearly</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not married</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total married</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spouse same religion</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spouse different religion</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seldom/never attend/DK</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The survey finds a complex link between attending multiple types of religious services and being in religiously mixed marriages. The key distinction between those in religiously mixed versus religiously matched marriages is in the overall level of religious commitment, with those in religiously mixed marriages exhibiting lower levels of religious commitment, as measured by frequency of attendance at worship services. Among those in religiously mixed marriages, fully four-in-ten (43%) say they seldom or never attend religious services, twice as high as seen among those married to someone of the same faith (21%).

On the surface, people who are married to a spouse from a faith different than their own are neither more nor less likely than married people overall to attend multiple types of religious services (25% among all of those in religiously mixed relationships, 24% among those in religiously matched marriages). However, among those who attend religious services at least
yearly, more than four-in-ten in mixed marriages attend services of faiths different than their own, compared with roughly three-in-ten of those married to someone of the same faith.

**Worship Venues**

In addition to asking about the types of religious services that people attend, the survey also asked about the locations or venues in which these services are held. Most people who attend services at least yearly do so at a church or other house of worship. But a significant minority of Americans (11%) say they go to services at other locations, either instead of (3%) or in addition to (8%) services in a regular house of worship.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Where Do You Attend Services?</th>
<th>All adults</th>
<th>Protestant</th>
<th>Catholic</th>
<th>Unaffiliated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attended at least yearly</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Churches/Houses of worship</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other places</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know/Refused</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seldom/Never attend/DK</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Roughly one-in-six white evangelicals attend religious services in a place other than a church or house of worship (16%), as do 13% of black Protestants. Nearly one-in-ten white mainline Protestants say the same (9%), while the comparable figures among Catholics and the unaffiliated are 5% and 6%, respectively.

Homes are the most popular alternative venue to churches and other houses of worship. About 7% of Americans say they attend religious services in someone’s home. Attending services in homes is somewhat more common among Protestants (9%) than among Catholics (4%).
Eastern or New Age Beliefs, “Evil Eye”

Roughly one-quarter of adults express belief in tenets of certain Eastern religions; 24% say they believe in reincarnation (that people will be reborn in this world again and again), and a similar number (23%) believe in yoga not just as exercise but as a spiritual practice. Similar numbers profess belief in elements of New Age spirituality, with 26% saying they believe in spiritual energy located in physical things such as mountains, trees or crystals, and 25% professing belief in astrology (that the position of the stars and planets can affect people’s lives). Fewer people (16%) believe in the “evil eye” or that certain people can cast curses or spells that cause bad things to happen to someone.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eastern or New Age Beliefs</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>DK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% who believe in …</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reincarnation, that people will be reborn in this world again and again</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yoga not just as exercise but as a spiritual practice</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spiritual energy located in physical things like mountains, trees, crystals</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Astrology, that the position of stars/planets can affect people’s lives</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evil eye, or that certain people can cast curses or spells that cause harm</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Q291a-f.

Compared with other religious traditions, white evangelical Protestants consistently express lower levels of acceptance of both Eastern beliefs (reincarnation, yoga) and New Age beliefs (spiritual energy in physical things and astrology). For example, roughly one-in-ten white evangelicals believes in reincarnation, compared with 24% among mainline Protestants, 25% among both white Catholics and those unaffiliated with any religion, and 29% among black Protestants. Similarly, 13% of white evangelicals believe in astrology, compared with roughly one-quarter or more among other religious traditions. There are few differences among religious traditions in belief in the “evil eye,” though black Protestants stand out for high levels of belief on this question (32%).
Among Protestants, high levels of religious commitment are associated with lower levels of acceptance of Eastern or New Age beliefs. Among both evangelical and mainline Protestants, those who attend church weekly express much lower levels of belief in reincarnation, yoga, the existence of spiritual energy in physical things and astrology compared with those who attend religious services less often. Among Catholics, by contrast, frequency of church attendance is linked much less closely with these kinds of beliefs, although those who attend less often do express higher levels of belief in astrology compared with weekly attenders.

Hispanics are more likely than whites to believe in yoga, spiritual energy in physical objects, astrology and the evil eye, and blacks are more likely than whites to believe in reincarnation and the evil eye. Older people (those over age 65) consistently express lower levels of acceptance of these kinds of beliefs compared with younger people. These beliefs are more common among Democrats and independents than Republicans and are more widely held by liberals and moderates than conservatives. The difference between liberals and conservatives is especially pronounced on the question of belief in yoga as a spiritual practice; nearly four-in-ten liberals express this belief (39%), compared with 15% of conservatives.
Ghosts, Fortunetellers, and Communicating With the Dead

Roughly three-in-ten Americans (29%) say they have felt in touch with someone who has died. Nearly one-in-five say they have been in the presence of a ghost (18%), while 15% say they have consulted a fortuneteller or a psychic.

The proportion of Americans who say they have interacted with a ghost has doubled over the past 13 years (9% in 1996 compared with 18% today). The number saying they have felt in touch with someone who has died has also grown considerably, from 18% in 1996 to 29% today. There has been no change, however, over the past 20 years in the proportion of Americans who have consulted a fortuneteller or psychic, with a steady minority of roughly one-in-seven continuing to say they have done so.

Evangelical Protestants are the group least likely to say they have felt in touch with a dead person (20%). Members of other religious traditions are much more familiar with this type of phenomenon, with 37% of black Protestants, 35% of white Catholics, 31% of the unaffiliated and 29% of white mainline Protestants saying they have felt in touch with someone who has died. Differences between evangelicals and other religious traditions are smaller on the questions of ghostly experiences and consultations with fortunetellers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supernatural Experiences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% felt you were in touch with someone who has already died</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% seen or been in the presence of a ghost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% consulted a fortuneteller or psychic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sep. 1996 and June 1990 surveys conducted by Gallup. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Q292a-c.
Having been in touch with a dead person is more common among women than men (33% vs. 26%). Women are also twice as likely to have consulted a fortuneteller or psychic (20% vs. 10%). Blacks report more experience feeling in touch with the dead than whites or Hispanics (41%, 29% and 30%, respectively). But they resemble whites and Hispanics on other items, such as encounters with a ghost or consulting a fortuneteller.

Compared with those with a college degree, more Americans with a high school education or less report having felt in touch with a dead person (32% vs. 24%) and having seen a ghost (21% vs. 13%). However, Americans with less education are no more inclined to have consulted a fortuneteller than are Americans with a college education (13% vs. 17%). Conservatives and Republicans report fewer experiences than liberals or Democrats communicating with the dead, seeing ghosts and consulting fortunetellers or psychics.

### Diverse Supernatural Beliefs and Experiences

In total, upwards of six-in-ten adults (65%) express belief in or report having experience with at least one of these diverse supernatural phenomena (belief in reincarnation, belief in spiritual energy located in physical things, belief in yoga as spiritual practice, belief in the “evil eye,” belief in astrology, having been in touch with the dead, consulting a psychic, or experiencing a ghostly encounter). This includes roughly one-quarter of the population (23%) who report having only one of these beliefs or experiences. More than four-in-ten people (43%) answer two or more of these items affirmatively, including 25% who answer two or three of these items affirmatively and nearly one-in-five (18%) who answer yes to four or more. Roughly one-third of the public (35%) answers no to all eight items.
With the exception of white evangelicals, majorities of all major religious traditions report holding at least one of these beliefs or having experienced one of these phenomena. In fact, roughly half of black Protestants (50%), the religiously unaffiliated (48%) and Catholics (47%) answer yes to two or more of these items, as do 43% of white mainline Protestants. A slim majority of white evangelicals (53%) answer no to all eight questions, while 47% indicate belief or familiarity with at least one of these items. Among white evangelicals and white mainline Protestants, higher levels of religious commitment (as measured by frequency of church attendance) are associated with lower levels of belief in these phenomena and familiarity with these experiences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Supernatural Beliefs and Experiences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protestant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White evang.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend less often</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White mainline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend less often</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Protestant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White non-Hisp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend less often</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unaffiliated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q291a-f, Q292a-c; alpha=.724.
Religious and Mystical Experiences

In response to a separate question, half of Americans (49%) say they have had “a religious or mystical experience – that is, a moment of religious or spiritual awakening.” This is roughly the same as the number that said this in 2006 (47%), but it represents a sharp increase over the past four decades. In 1962, only 22% of Americans reported having had such an experience, which grew to about a third in 1976 (31%) and 1994 (33%). Since then, the number has continued to increase to roughly half of the public in this decade.

Differences among Protestants are striking. Strong majorities of white evangelicals (70%) and black Protestants (71%) say they have had religious or mystical experiences, compared with four-in-ten mainline Protestants (40%). Catholics resemble mainline Protestants, with 37% having had a religious or mystical experience.

Among the unaffiliated, three-in-ten have had a religious or mystical experience. This is lower than nearly any other religious segment of the population but is still a higher proportion than among the general public in 1962 (22%). These kinds of experiences are particularly common among the “religious unaffiliated” (i.e., those who describe their religion as “nothing in particular” and say that religion is at least somewhat important in their lives), among whom 51% have had a religious or mystical experience. Among self-described atheists, agnostics and the “secular unaffiliated” (i.e., those who describe their religion as “nothing in particular” and say that religion is not important in their lives), roughly one-in-five (18%) say they have had this kind of experience.

Mystical or religious experiences are most common among people who regularly attend religious services. More than six-in-ten

| Ever Had Religious or Mystical Experience? |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
|                  | Feb | Aug | Nov | Apr | Aug |
|                  | %  | %  | %  | %  | %  |
| Yes              | 22 | 31 | 33 | 47 | 49 |
| No               | 78 | 69 | 65 | 51 | 48 |
| Don’t know       | 0  | 0  | 2  | 2  | 4  |
|                  | 100| 100| 100| 100| 100|

Feb. 62 and Aug. 76 surveys by Gallup; Nov. 94 by Newsweek; Apr. 06 by Ipsos

Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding. Q290.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religious or Mystical Experience</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>DK</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-29</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-49</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-64</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrat</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservative</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberal</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protestant</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White evang.</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White mainline</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Protestant</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White non-Hisp.</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unaffiliated</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Attend religious services....     |
| Weekly or more                   | 61  | 34 | 5   | 100| 825 |
| Monthly/Yearly                   | 48  | 50 | 2   | 100| 653 |
| Seldom/Never                     | 33  | 65 | 2   | 100| 501 |

Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding. Q290.
of those who attend weekly say they have had this kind of experience (61%), compared with half of those who attend monthly or yearly (48%) and just one-third of those who seldom or never attend religious services (33%).

Blacks are much more likely than whites or Hispanics (69%, 47% and 44%, respectively) to report religious or mystical experiences. More than half (55%) of baby boomers (age 50-64) identify with such experiences, compared with fewer young adults and seniors (43% each).

There is little difference along party lines on this question. Roughly half of Republicans, Democrats and independents say they have had a religious or mystical experience. More than half of conservatives (55%) claim to have had such experiences, similar to the number of liberals who have had these kinds of experiences (50%) and much higher than among moderates (43%).
ABOUT THE SURVEY

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International among a nationwide sample of 4,013 adults, 18 years of age or older. Interviews were conducted in two waves, the first from August 11-17, 2009 (Survey A) and the second from August 20-27, 2009 (Survey B). In total, 3,012 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 1,001 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 347 who had no landline telephone. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Both the landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see http://people-press.org/methodology/.

The combined landline and cell phone sample is weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race/ethnicity, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2008 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample is also weighted to match current patterns of telephone status and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2008 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the sample.

The following table shows the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey. The topline survey results included at the end of this report clearly indicate whether each question in the survey was asked of the full sample, Survey A only or Survey B only. Most of the results analyzed in this report were asked in Survey B only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Sample Size</th>
<th>Plus or minus…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total sample</td>
<td>4,013</td>
<td>2.0 percentage points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survey A</td>
<td>2,010</td>
<td>2.5 percentage points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Form 1</td>
<td>1,011</td>
<td>3.5 percentage points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Form 2</td>
<td>999</td>
<td>3.5 percentage points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survey B</td>
<td>2,003</td>
<td>2.5 percentage points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Form 1</td>
<td>1,034</td>
<td>3.5 percentage points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Form 2</td>
<td>969</td>
<td>3.5 percentage points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.
ABOUT THE PROJECTS

This survey is a joint effort of the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press and the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. Both organizations are sponsored by the Pew Charitable Trusts and are projects of the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan “fact tank” that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world.

The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press is an independent opinion research group that studies attitudes toward the press, politics and public policy issues. The Center’s purpose is to serve as a forum for ideas on the media and public policy through public opinion research. In this role it serves as an important information resource for political leaders, journalists, scholars, and public interest organizations. All of the Center’s current survey results are made available free of charge.

The Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life seeks to promote a deeper understanding of issues at the intersection of religion and public affairs. It studies public opinion, demographics and other important aspects of religion and public life in the U.S. and around the world. It also provides a neutral venue for discussions of timely issues through roundtables and briefings.

This report is a collaborative product based on the input and analysis of the following individuals:

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- Sandra Stencel ..........Associate Directors
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- Shawn Neidorf
- Leah Melani Christian
- Jocelyn Kiley
- Alec Tyson .......... Research Associates
- Jacob Poushter ...... Research Analyst

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ASK ALL:

RELIG What is your present religion, if any? Are you Protestant, Roman Catholic, Mormon, Orthodox such as Greek or Russian Orthodox, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, atheist, agnostic, something else, or nothing in particular?

[INTERVIEWER: IF R VOLUNTEERS “nothing in particular, none, no religion, etc.” BEFORE REACHING END OF LIST, PROMPT WITH: And would you say that’s atheist, agnostic, or just nothing in particular?]}

IF SOMETHING ELSE, NOTHING IN PARTICULAR OR DK/REF (RELIG=11, 12, 99) ASK:

CHR Do you think of yourself as a Christian or not?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Protestant (Baptist, Methodist, Non-denominational, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Episcopal, Reformed, Church of Christ, Jehovah’s Witness, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Roman Catholic (Catholic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints/LDS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*</td>
<td>Orthodox (Greek, Russian, or some other orthodox church)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jewish (Judaism)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*</td>
<td>Muslim (Islam)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Buddhist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*</td>
<td>Hindu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Atheist (do not believe in God)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Agnostic (not sure if there is a God)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Something else (SPECIFY)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Nothing in particular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Christian (VOL.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*</td>
<td>Unitarian (Universalist) (VOL.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Don't Know/Refused (VOL.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IF CHRISTIAN (RELIG=1-4, 13 OR ((RELIG=11 OR RELIG=99) AND CHR=1)):

BORN Would you describe yourself as a "born again" or evangelical Christian, or not?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Yes, would</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>No, would not</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Don’t know/Refused (VOL.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78%</td>
<td>Christian</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ASK ALL:  
ATTEND  
Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services... more than once a week, once a week, once or twice a month, a few times a year, seldom, or never?  
NOTE: ATTEND FOR BOTH SURVEY A AND SURVEY B ARE PRESENTED HERE.  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More than once a week</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once a week</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once or twice a month</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A few times a year</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seldom</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DK/Ref</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ASK SURVEY B IF ATTEND AT LEAST A FEW TIMES A YEAR (ATTEND=1-4):  
Q.281  
Aside from when you’re traveling and special events like weddings and funerals, do you always attend religious services at the same place, mostly attend at one place but occasionally go to different places, or do you go to different places on a regular basis?

BASED ON TOTAL SURVEY B  
36  Always attend at the same place  
26  Mostly attend at one place but occasionally go to different places  
9  Go to different places on a regular basis  
1  Don’t know/Refused (VOL.)  
(28)  Attend religious services less than yearly/refused to say how often
ASK SURVEY B IF ATTEND AT MORE THAN ONE PLACE (Q.281=2,3):
Q.282 And aside from weddings and funerals, do you ever [INSERT; RANDOMIZE]? Do you ever [INSERT NEXT ITEM]?

BASED ON TOTAL SURVEY B

---Multiple places---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>DK/Ref</th>
<th>Don’t attend multiple places</th>
<th>Attend less than yearly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a.</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ASK IF PROTESTANT/JUST CHRISTIAN (RELIG=1,13) [N=1099]:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>DK/Ref</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a.</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ASK IF NOT PROTESTANT/JUST CHRISTIAN (RELIG≠1,13) [N=904]:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>DK/Ref</th>
<th>Don’t attend multiple places</th>
<th>Attend less than yearly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b.</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ASK IF NOT CATHOLIC (RELIG≠2) [N=1566]:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>DK/Ref</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>c.</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ASK IF NOT JEWISH (RELIG≠5) [N=1968]:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>DK/Ref</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>d.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ASK IF NOT MUSLIM (RELIG≠6) [N=1991]:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>DK/Ref</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>e.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ASK ALL WHO ATTEND AT MORE THAN ONE PLACE (Q.281=2,3) [N=2003]:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>DK/Ref</th>
<th>Don’t attend multiple places</th>
<th>Attend less than yearly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>f.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ASK SURVEY B IF ALWAYS AT THE SAME PLACE: (Q.281=1):

Q.283 Are the religious services you attend held at a church or house of worship, or are they held at some other location such as at a restaurant or a person’s home?

ASK SURVEY B IF NOT ALWAYS AT THE SAME PLACE: (Q.281=2-9):

Q.284 In general, are the religious services you attend held at houses of worship such as churches, synagogues or mosques, are they held at other locations such as at restaurants or people’s homes, or do you attend services both in houses of worship and at other locations?

BASED ON TOTAL SURVEY B

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>At church(es)/house(es) of worship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>At other location(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Both churches/houses of worship and other locations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Don’t know/Refused (VOL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(28)</td>
<td>Attend religious services less than yearly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Based on total survey B

Q.285  IF ‘OTHER LOCATIONS’ (Q.283=2 OR Q.284=2) ASK: And what kind of place or location is this? IF “BOTH” (Q.284=3) ASK: What kinds of places are these other locations? [RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE] [INTERVIEWER NOTE: We are interested in the type of place R attends other than a church/house of worship, for example a restaurant, home, park or other location. We are not interested in a specific address or geographic place, such as a city. Please clarify for R as needed, such as “For example, is it a restaurant, or someone’s home, or a park, or what?”]

Based on total survey B

7   Homes
1   Schools
1   Parks/campgrounds
1   Restaurants
1   Hotels
4   Other

Ask all survey B:

Q.290  Would you say that you have ever had a 'religious or mystical experience'-- that is, a moment of sudden religious insight or awakening?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>78</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know/Refused (VOL.)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ask all survey B:

Q.291  Which, if any, of the following do you believe in? Do you believe [INSERT; RANDOMIZE]? Do you believe [INSERT NEXT ITEM]?

Yes, No, don’t believe (VOL.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. in reincarnation, that people will be reborn in this world again and again</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. in spiritual energy located in physical things, such as mountains, trees or crystals</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. in yoga, not just as exercise, but as a spiritual practice</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No item d.

e. in the “evil eye” or that certain people can cast curses or spells that cause bad things to happen to someone | 16 | 81 | 2 |
| f. in astrology, or that the position of the stars and planets can affect people’s lives | 25 | 71 | 4 |
ASK ALL SURVEY B:
Q.292 Have you ever [INSERT; RANDOMIZE]? Have you ever [INSERT NEXT ITEM]?

a. felt that you were in touch with someone who has already died
   August 20-27, 2009 29 69 2
   September, 1996 Gallup 18 81 1
   June, 1990 Gallup 17 82 1

b. consulted a fortune-teller or psychic
   August 20-27, 2009 15 85 1
   September, 1996 Gallup 17 83 *
   June, 1990 Gallup 14 85 1

c. seen or been in the presence of a ghost
   August 20-27, 2009 18 80 2
   September, 1996 Gallup 9 90 2
   June, 1990 Gallup 9 90 1

ASK SURVEY B IF MARRIED OR PARTNERED (MARITAL=1,2) [N=1219]:
SPREL And what is your [IF MARITAL=1: spouse’s/IF MARITAL=2: partner’s] religion, if any? Are they Protestant, Roman Catholic, Mormon, Orthodox such as Greek or Russian Orthodox, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, atheist, agnostic, something else, or nothing in particular?

[INTERVIEWER: IF R VOLUNTEERS “nothing in particular, none, no religion, etc.” BEFORE REACHING END OF LIST, PROMPT WITH: and would you say they are atheist, agnostic, or just nothing in particular?] IF SOMETHING ELSE, OR DK (SPREL=11, 99), ASK:
SPCHR And is that a Christian religion, or not?

43 Protestant (Baptist, Methodist, Non-denominational, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Episcopalian, Reformed, Church of Christ, Jehovah’s Witness, etc.)
25 Roman Catholic (Catholic)
2 Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints/LDS)
* Orthodox (Greek, Russian, or some other orthodox church)
1 Jewish (Judaism)
1 Muslim (Islam)
1 Buddhist
* Hindu
1 Atheist (do not believe in God)
2 Agnostic (not sure if there is a God)
1 Something else (SPECIFY)
10 Nothing in particular
10 Christian (VOL.)
* Unitarian (Universalist) (VOL.)
2 Don't Know/Refused (VOL.)
ASR SURVEY B IF SPOUSE CHRISTIAN (SREL=1-4, 13 OR SPCHR=1):
SPBORN Would you describe your spouse as a "born again" or evangelical Christian, or not?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>36</th>
<th>41</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>(80)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes, would</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total married to Christian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No, would not</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know/Refused (VOL.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total married to Christian: 80