

American Humanist Survey

1. Which of these terms would you use to describe yourself? **Circle all that apply.**
- | | |
|--|--|
| (a) <i>humanist</i> YES: 86.1% | (k) <i>atheist</i> YES: 64.4% |
| (b) <i>non-theist</i> YES: 45.2% | (l) <i>post-theist</i> YES: 6.4% |
| (c) <i>agnostic</i> YES: 24.1% | (m) <i>deist</i> YES: 2.2% |
| (d) <i>religious</i> YES: 1.1% | (n) <i>secular</i> YES: 60% |
| (e) <i>freethinker</i> YES: 48.6% | (o) <i>spiritual but not religious</i> YES: 16.1% |
| (f) <i>pagan</i> YES: 2.2% | (p) <i>pantheist</i> YES: 2.6% |
| (g) <i>traditional believer</i> YES: 0.9% | (q) <i>non-traditional believer</i> YES: 2.7% |
| (h) <i>liberal/progressive</i> YES: 67.6% | (r) <i>skeptic</i> YES: 36.4% |
| (i) <i>anti-clerical</i> YES: 14.4% | (s) <i>naturalist</i> YES: 22.9% |
| (j) <i>pastafarian</i> YES: 3.3% | (t) <i>none</i> YES: 1.6% |
- Other: _____

2. Which of these terms **BEST** describes you? secular humanist: **2.2%**, humanist: **35.2%**, non-theist: **2.8%**, agnostic: **4.3%**, freethinker: **6.1%**, liberal/progressive: **10%**, anti-clerical: **0.4%**, atheist: **24.6%**, post-theist: **0.2%**, deist: **0.4%**, secular: **3.9%**, spiritual but not religious: **1.8%**, skeptic: **3%**, naturalist: **2.8%**, none: **0.2%**, Other: **2.1%**

3. Thinking about the term that best describes you, how do you feel about the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I think of myself as being a member of this group	44.9%	39.4%	14.2%	1.3%	0.2%
When talking about this group, I often use “we” instead of “they”	29.6%	27.7%	31.9%	8.7%	2.1%
Being part of this group is important to me	32.7%	37.4%	23.5%	4.9%	1.5%
When someone criticizes this groups, it feels like a personal insult to me	17.7%	31.4%	31.2%	14.6%	5.1%
There is a lot of prejudice against this group	32.9%	35.7%	25.1%	6.1%	0.2%

- 4a. Do you currently identify with a religious group? **Yes: 16% No: 84%**
If **YES**, which is it? (please be specific)

4b. _____

- 5a. If **NO** in #4a above, have you ever identified with a religious group? **Yes: 80.8% No: 19.2%**

- 5b. If **YES**, what was it? (*Please be specific*)

- 5c. If you identified with this religious group was it as a: child: **54%** adult: **12.5%** Both: **33.5%**

6. If you identified with this religious group, how important were following reasons in your decision in changing your identification?

		Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not at all important
a.	I stopped believing in god.	67.8%	17.7%	7.6%	6.9%
b.	I no longer shared the views of the group.	55.6%	22.9%	11%	10.5%
c.	I felt there were too many constraints on my life.	17.4%	17.8%	29.8%	35%
d.	I felt the group was too mixed up in politics.	8.9%	12.4%	22.8%	55.9%
e.	I lost confidence in the group's leaders.	16.5%	18.9%	23.9%	40.7%
f.	Other:				

7. Which of these reasons was **MOST** important to this change?
 (a) **60.8%** (b) **25.4%** (c) **1.8%** (d) **1.5%** (e) **1.8%** (f) **8.7%**

8. Do you attend any of the following kinds of services? **Circle all that apply.**

- 6.9%** (a) *a local Humanist Chaplaincy/Community*
- 1.9%** (b) *an Ethical Society*
- 14.4%** (c) *a Unitarian/Universalist fellowship*
- 3.9%** (d) *a humanistic Jewish congregation*
- 2.6%** (e) *Sunday Assembly*
- (f) *Other: _____*

9. Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend such services?

Never/ Seldom	A few times a year	Once a month	Several times a month	Once a week	More than once a week
76.2%	10.5%	3.1%	4.7%	4.5%	1%

10. Have you used the services of a Humanist celebrant? **Yes: 8.9%** **No: 91.1%**
11. Have you participated in the recognition of secular life passage, such as non-theistic marriage or naming ceremonies? **Yes: 33.3%** **No: 66.7%**
12. Have you celebrated secular holidays, such as Darwin Day, Human Light, or the National Day of Reason? **Yes: 29.3%** **No: 70.7%**
13. Is religion an important part of your life? **Yes: 7.3%** **No: 92.7%**
 If **YES**, how much guidance does religion provide in your day-to-day life?
 (a) *Some guidance* **54.6%** (b) *Quite a bit of guidance* **29.5%** (c) *A great deal of guidance* **15.9%**
14. Do you consider non-religious beliefs, such as derived from science or philosophy, to be an important part of your life? **Yes: 93.1%** **No: 6.9%**
 If **YES**, how much guidance do such non-religious beliefs provide in your day-to-day life?
 (a) *Some guidance* **21.5%** (b) *Quite a bit of guidance* **32.4%** (c) *A great deal of guidance* **46.1%**

15. Which of the following statements **BEST** describes your situation?

- (a) *Non-religious activities give meaning to my life. Religious activities do not.* **74.5%**
- (b) *Non-religious activities give more meaning to my life than religious activities.* **20.5%**
- (c) *Non-religious activities and religious activities give about the same amount of meaning to my life.* **4%**
- (d) *Religious activities give more meaning to my life than non-religious activities.* **0.8%**
- (e) *Religious activities give meaning to my life. Non-religious activities do not.* **0.2%**

16. People seek to understand the world and their lives in a variety of ways. Some people rely on secular perspectives, meaning that they view the world in non-religious, humanist, or rational ways. How often do you do the following things?

		Never	Occasionally	Frequently
a.	Think deeply about secularism as a way of understanding the world	6%	37.4%	56.6%
b.	Read books, articles, and websites about secularism as a way of understanding the world	6.2%	46.9%	46.9%
c.	Discuss with family and friends secularism as a way of understanding the world	19.9%	59.5%	20.6%
d.	Gather with larger groups of people who share a secular perspective	50.1%	36.3%	13.6%
e.	Try to convince others of your views on secularism as a way of understanding the world	46%	49.1%	4.9%

17. On a scale of **0 to 100**, where **0** means “*I am absolutely certain that there is a God,*” and **100** means “*I am absolutely certain that there is no God,*” where would you place yourself
 _____ (0 to 100) **Mean: 87.12 SD: 27.44**

18. Which of the following statements **BEST** describes your view?

- (a) *The way the world works is best explained by science and not by belief in God.* **97.2%**
- (b) *Some things about how the world works are best explained by science, but other things are best explained by belief in God.* **2.8%**
- (c) *The way the world works is best explained by belief in God.* **0%**

19. Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statements:

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Disagree	Disagree Strongly
a.	Factual evidence from the natural world is the source of true beliefs.	74.8%	19.7%	4.7%	0.4%	0.4%
b.	The great books of philosophy and science are the best source of truth, wisdom, and ethics.	41.3%	37.9%	16.9%	3.2%	0.7%

c.	It is hard to live a good life based on reason and facts alone.	3.8%	8.9%	10.7%	22.8%	53.8%
d.	To understand the world, we must free our minds from old traditions and beliefs.	32%	40.1%	17.1%	8.3%	2.5%
e.	Values are more important than factual evidence in making moral decisions.	3.3%	12.9%	34.3%	30.5%	19%
f.	We cannot understand the meaning of life without faith and spirituality.	1.5%	1.3%	7%	19.4%	70.8%
g.	When I make important decisions in my life, I rely mostly on reason and evidence.	54.5%	36.5%	5.4%	1.5%	2.1%
h.	All of the greatest advances for humanity have come from science and technology.	36.9%	35.7%	15.9%	8.7%	2.8%
i.	What we believe is right and wrong cannot be based only on human knowledge.	3.8%	10%	15%	28.9%	42.3%
j.	People are better off without religion in their lives.	31.5%	28.1%	32.1%	4.7%	3.6%
k.	The world would be a better place if we relied less on science and technology to solve our problems.	2.6%	1.9%	4.1%	20.3%	71.1%

20. Are you a member of the American Humanist Association (AHA)? **Yes: 95% No: 5%**
 If **YES**, how active are you in the AHA?

(a) *Very Active* **2.3%** (b) *Active* **2.7%** (c) *Somewhat Active* **14.7%** (d) *Not Very Active* **80.3%**

21. Which term do you feel best characterizes Humanism?

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| (a) <i>a belief system</i> 12.2% | (d) <i>a way of life</i> 21.7% |
| (b) <i>a lifestance</i> 14% | (e) <i>a religion</i> 0.2% |
| (c) <i>a worldview</i> 35.1% | (f) <i>a philosophy</i> 21.5% |
| (g) <i>Other:</i> _____ | |

22. Overall, how would you rate the programs and activities of the AHA?

Excellent		Mixed		Poor
(1) 13.9%	(2) 36.6%	(3) 24.1%	(4) 22.1%	(5) 2.4%
	(6) 0.7%	(7) 0.2%		

23. The following statements are often said about AHA. How do you feel about each of them?

	<i>Very Positive</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Very Negative</i>
a. AHA promotes critical inquiry and social concerns.	64.8%	31%	3.6%
b. AHA promotes the idea that one can be a good person without god.	82.6%	15.7%	1.3%
c. AHA provides a needed voice in the nation's capitol for humanists.	71.6%	22.3%	6.1%
d. AHA promotes social justice through a humanist lens.	65.6%	30%	3.6%

24. How do you feel about the following roles AHA might perform?

		<i>Very Positive</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Very Negative</i>	
a. Humanist <i>political advocate</i> (lobbying, legal work, grassroots activism)	57.9%	32.6%	8.3%	0.8%	0.4%
b. Humanist <i>community builder</i> (developing local groups and communities)	46.8%	34.7%	17.5%	0.8%	0.2%
c. Humanist <i>educator</i> (teaching and information support)	57.2%	36.1%	6.3%	0.2%	0.2%
d. Humanist <i>think tank</i> (researching and publishing)	56%	33%	10%	0.6%	0.4%
e. Humanist <i>media center</i> (advertising, promotion, press outreach)	50.3%	35.2%	13.9%	0.4%	0.2%

25. What is your opinion of the following groups? If you are a member of one of the groups, please provide your opinion of the group AND indicate that you are a member.

	<i>Very Favorable</i>	<i>Not Sure</i>	<i>Very Unfavorable</i>	<i>I am a Member</i>
a. American Atheists	24.1%	21.6%	39.9%	12.8%
b. Habitat for Humanity	39%	42.9%	11.4%	5.8%
c. Secular Coalitions for America	20.7%	19.4%	41.5%	18.4%
d. Sierra Club	37.2%	40.2%	13.9%	6.6%
e. The Interfaith Alliance	9.8%	13.8%	43.3%	28.8%
f. Freedom from Religion Foundation	43.1%	26.3%	20.5%	9.2%
g. Center for Inquiry	29.5%	22.2%	34.8%	13.3%
h. Bread for the World	9.1%	12.5%	49.5%	28.1%
i. International Humanist & Ethical Union	16.1%	20.2%	46.6%	17.1%
j. Southern Poverty Law Center	53.3%	28.1%	10%	6.1%
k. PETA	10%	23.8%	30%	22.1%
l. American Friends Service Committee	19%	22.6%	37.9%	19.5%
m. People for the American Way	30.3%	21.6%	28.5%	16.6%
n. Atheist Alliance International	12.1%	15.9%	51%	20.5%
o. Human Rights Campaign	36%	27%	26%	11%
p. Planned Parenthood	72.8%	22.1%	3.1%	1.6%
q. Americans United for Separation of Church and State	64.1%	24.7%	7.8%	3%

26. Generally speaking, how do you usually think of yourself politically? (If you affiliate with another political party, please note in other party.)

<i>Strong Democrat</i>	<i>Weak Democrat</i>	<i>Independent Lean Democratic</i>	<i>Pure Independent</i>	<i>Independent Lean Republican</i>	<i>Weak Republican</i>	<i>Strong Republican</i>
57.9%	8.7%	26.3%	5.6%	1.3%	0%	0.2%

26a. Other party: _____

27. For each of the following groups, please let us know whether you think that the members of this group are mainly Democrats, mainly Republicans or a pretty even mix of both.

	Mainly Republicans	Mainly Democrats	A pretty even mix of both
a. Evangelical Christians	96.6%	0.6%	2.8%
b. People who aren't religious	0.6%	64.9%	34.5%
c. African Americans	1.3%	86.1%	12.6%
d. Business people	72.3%	1%	26.7%
e. Religious people	61%	2.1%	36.9%
f. Atheists	1%	79.4%	19.6%
g. American nationalists	83.5%	2.3%	14.2%

28. Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about the Republican and Democratic parties.

	<i>Agree Strongly</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor Disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Disagree Strongly</i>
a. Republican Party leaders spend too much time talking about their religious beliefs.	62.1%	28.2%	9.1%	0.4%	0.2%
b. Religious conservatives have too much control over the Republican Party.	78.4%	17.1%	4.1%	0.4%	0%
c. Democratic Party leaders do not spend enough time talking about their religious beliefs.	2.3%	5.9%	32.7%	29.9%	29.2%
d. Secular humanists have too much control over the Democratic Party.	0.4%	0.2%	12.9%	29.4%	57.1%
e. The Republican Party often reaches out to people who are not religious.	1.7%	3.4%	16.2%	34.1%	44.6%
f. Secular humanists have too much control over the Republican Party.	0.4%	0.6%	5.4%	14.9%	78.7%
g. The Democratic Party often reaches out to people who are not religious.	4.9%	32.1%	38.2%	18.2%	6.6%
h. Religious conservatives have too much control over the Democratic Party.	3.4%	8.9%	17.4%	35.9%	34.4%

29. Please tell us whether you agree or disagree that each of the following things should be permitted under the U.S. Constitution.

	Agree Strongly	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Disagree Strongly
a. Public school children say the Pledge of Allegiance, which refers to "one nation under God."	.6%	3.4%	11.8%	29.5%	54.7%

b.	A copy of the Ten Commandments is displayed in a county court house.	0.4%	0.7%	2.4%	10.3%	86.2%
c.	At a public high school, football games begin with a prayer.	0%	0.4%	2.9%	13.6%	83.1%
d.	A state legislature declares Christianity to be the official religion of the state.	0%	0%	0.2%	2.4%	97.4%
e.	A public school system closes schools for major Christian, Jewish, and Muslim holidays.	3.7%	12.1%	37.5%	15.8%	30.9%
f.	Houses of worship lose their tax-exempt status if they publicly endorse political candidates.	81.9%	11.8%	1.3%	0.9%	4.1%
g.	A public high school prohibits students from wearing religious symbols, such as a Christian cross, a Jewish yarmulke, or a Muslim headscarf.	9.4%	9%	22.3%	27.3%	32%
h.	The government prevents religious groups from practicing polygamy, in which one man marries multiple wives.	34.8%	21.2%	26.7%	8.5%	8.8%
i.	For religious reasons, a florist refuses to provide flowers at same-sex weddings.	1.5%	3.4%	9.1%	19.2%	66.8%
j.	While headgear is generally not allowed in driver's license photos, a devout Muslim is permitted to wear a headscarf in her photo.	17.4%	23.6%	24.8%	14.2%	20%
30.	On a scale of 0 to 100, where would you place yourself on the following issues?					
a.	Where 0 means " <i>extremely conservative</i> " and 100 means " <i>extremely liberal</i> ," Yourself: _____ MEAN: 84.78 SD: 14.639					
b.	Where 0 means " <i>Government provide many fewer services, reduce spending</i> " and 100 means " <i>Government provide many more services, increase spending</i> ," Yourself: _____ MEAN: 77.43 SD: 20.167					
c.	Where 0 means " <i>We should create a government insurance plan to cover all medical and hospital expenses for everyone</i> ," and 100 means " <i>All medical expenses should be paid by individuals through private insurance plans</i> ," Yourself: _____ MEAN: 15.41 SD: 28.249					
d.	Where 0 means " <i>The United States should provide a way for illegal immigrants to pay fines to eventually become U.S. citizens</i> ," and 100 means " <i>We should send illegal immigrants back to their home countries permanently</i> ," Yourself: _____ MEAN: 18.15 SD: 25.379					

- e. Where **0** means “*The U.S. should try to spread democracy around the world and work against undemocratic countries,*” and **100** means “*The U.S. should not worry about whether other countries are democratic and work with undemocratic countries if it serves our interests,*”
Yourself: **MEAN: 46.43 SD: 28.809**
-
- f. Where **0** means “*Stricter environmental laws and regulations cost too many jobs and hurt the economy,*” and **100** means “*Stricter environmental laws and regulations are worth the cost to preserve the environment,*”
Yourself: **MEAN: 91.10 SD: 15.258**
-
- g. Where **0** means “*To prevent terrorist attacks in this country, it is necessary to give up some civil liberties,*” and **100** means “*We should preserve our freedoms above all, even if there remains some risk of terrorist attacks.*”
Yourself: **MEAN: 74.12 SD: 28.214**
-
- h. Where **0** means “*We need a strong government to handle today’s complex economic problems,*” and **100** means “*The free market can handle these problems without government being involved,*”
Yourself: **MEAN: 25.48 SD: 24.494**
-
- i. Where **0** means “*News of police abuse and killing of people of color are isolated incidents,*” and **100** means “*News of police abuse and killings of people of color reflect a pattern of systemic discrimination.*”
Yourself: **MEAN: 82.49 SD: 21.834**
-
- j. Where **0** means “*Harassment of women in the workplace is the product of a few bad apples,*” and **100** means “*Harassment of women in the workplace is the result of patriarchy.*”
Yourself: **MEAN: 80.30 SD: 22.301**
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31. On a scale from **0** to **100**, where **0** means “highly unfavorable” and **100** means “highly favorable,” where would you place your views of the following individuals and groups?

(0 to 100)		(0 to 100)		(0 to 100)	
a. Hillary Clinton	MEAN: 68.12 SD: 25.802	h. Ted Cruz	MEAN: 6.16 SD: 14.049	o. Muslims	MEAN: 55.00 SD: 26.488
b. Donald Trump	MEAN: 3.15 SD: 12.738	i. Evangelical Christians	MEAN: 9.25 SD: 16.445	p. Hispanics	MEAN: 66.88 SD: 22.315
c. Libertarian Party	MEAN: 28.37 SD: 24.028	j. Catholics	MEAN: 30.13 SD: 24.858	q. Atheists	MEAN: 79.79 SD: 20.560
d. Green Party	MEAN: 55.06 SD: 26.483	k. Whites	MEAN: 61.60 SD: 21.556	r. Mormons	MEAN: 35.88 SD: 26.238
e. Sam Harris	MEAN: 70.56 SD: 28.836	l. Asians	MEAN: 65.88 SD: 20.984	s. African Americans	MEAN: 67.66 SD: 22.123
f. Democratic Party	MEAN: 73.52 SD: 18.634	m. Republican Party	MEAN: 13.91 SD: 18.330	t. Jews	MEAN: 67.48 SD: 23.705
g. Barack Obama	MEAN: 84.34 SD: 19.076	n. Bernie Sanders	MEAN: 75.79 SD: 22.500	u. Gays and Lesbians	MEAN: 72.56 SD: 23.093

32. How did you vote in the following elections?

a. <i>For President in 2016:</i>	I did not vote 2.2%	Trump (2) 1.2%	Clinton (3) 96.6%	Other candidate _____
b. <i>For President in 2012:</i>	I did not vote 1.8%	Obama (2) 96.1%	Romney (3) 2.1%	Other candidate _____
c. <i>For Congress in 2014:</i>	I did not vote 2.5%	Republican 2.9%	Democratic 94.6%	Other candidate _____

33. During the 2016 presidential election, did anyone from any of the presidential campaigns contact you personally about voting?

<i>No</i>	<i>Yes:</i>	Trump (2)	Clinton (3)	Other _____
59.5%	7.1%		33.4%	

34. Have you engaged in any of the following activities?

	<i>Prior to Past 12 Months</i>	<i>Past 12 Months</i>
a. Attended a political protest or rally	49.2%	34%
b. Contacted a government official	44.2%	55.8%
c. Volunteered or worked for a Presidential campaign	30.3%	11.2%
d. Volunteered or worked for another political candidate, issue, or cause	30.9%	23%
e. Given money to a Presidential campaign	63.1%	40%
f. Given money to another political candidate, issue, or cause	56.5%	54.8%
g. Worked with others in your community to solve a problem	37.3%	30.5%
h. Served on a community board	27.1%	17.2%
i. Written a "letter to the editor"	31.8%	21.8%
j. Commented about politics on a message board or Internet site	26%	33.6%
k. Held a publicly elected office	6.6%	2.7%

35. Generally speaking, would you say:

<i>Most people can be trusted</i>	OR	<i>You can't be too careful in dealing with people (2)</i>
72.3%		27.7%

36. Thinking about your **five closest friends**:

a. <i>How many of them have the same religious beliefs as you?</i>	0 = 15.9%, 1 = 11.9% 2 = 17.2% 3 = 22.1% 4 = 17.5% 5 = 15.4%
b. <i>How many of them have the same political affiliation as you?</i>	0 = 4.6% 1 = 4.4% 2 = 9.9% 3 = 16.2% 4 = 22.2% 5 = 42.7%
c. <i>How many of them are of the same race as you?</i>	0 = 1.9% 1 = 2.1% 2 = 2.8% 3 = 7.6% 4 = 18.1% 5 = 67.5%

