

## PEW RESEARCH CENTER

**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**2014 U.S. RELIGIOUS LANDSCAPE STUDY**  
**RECONTACT SURVEY**  
**March 17-May 6, 2015**  
**N=5,000**

**ASK IF BORN IN THE US<sup>6</sup>:**

Q.A1 Have you lived in or near your local community your entire life, aside from the time you may have spent away in school or college, or have you lived in other places?

**BASED ON TOTAL**

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|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| <b>36</b>    | <b>NET Yes, lived in or near local community for entire life</b> |
| 35           | Yes, entire life   |
| 1            | Yes, except during active military duty ( <b>VOL.</b> )          |
| <b>52</b>    | <b>Lived in other places</b>                                     |
| <b>12</b>    | <b>Not born in U.S.</b>  |
| <b>&lt;1</b> | <b>Don't know/Refused (VOL.)</b>                                 |

**ASK ALL WHO LIVED IN OTHER PLACES OR WERE BORN OUTSIDE US [N=3,458]:**

Q.A2 About how many years have you lived in your local community?  
**ENTER YEARS (range 1 to 97)**

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|           |                                  |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| <b>47</b> | <b>NET 10 years or less</b>      |
| 3         | Less than 1 year                 |
| 25        | 1-5 years                        |
| 18        | 6-10 years                       |
| <b>53</b> | <b>NET More than 10 years</b>    |
| 18        | 11-19 years                      |
| 35        | 20+ years                        |
| <b>1</b>  | <b>Don't know/Refused (VOL.)</b> |

**ASK ALL WHO LIVED IN OTHER PLACES OR WERE BORN OUTSIDE US [N=3,458]:**

Q.A3 Thinking about all the places you have lived in the United States, how many different states have you lived in? Have you lived in one state, two different states, three different states, or more than three states? **[IF RESPONDENT SAYS DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, INCLUDE IN STATE COUNT (e.g. "2 states, plus DC" WOULD EQUAL 3 STATES)]**

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|              |                                  |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| 24           | One state                        |
| 26           | Two different states,            |
| 20           | Three different states,          |
| 29           | More than three states           |
| <b>&lt;1</b> | <b>Don't know/Refused (VOL.)</b> |

<sup>6</sup> Country of birth drawn from 2014 U.S. Religious Landscape Study. See corresponding [topline](#) for full results for the question (QP2).

## CHOOSING A NEW CHURCH OR HOUSE OF WORSHIP

**ASK ALL WHO HAVE LIVED IN DIFFERENT STATES [N=2,826]:**

Q.A4 Thinking about when you were growing up, what state did you live in? **[IF RESPONDENT SAYS THEY GREW UP IN MORE THAN ONE STATE PROBE ONCE WITH "Which state did you spend the most time in growing up?" IF RESPONDENT STILL REFUSES CODE AS DON'T KNOW]**

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|    |                                  |
|----|----------------------------------|
| 19 | State in the Northeast           |
| 25 | State in the Midwest             |
| 29 | State in the South               |
| 20 | State in the West                |
| 6  | Grew up outside of the U.S.      |
| <1 | Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b> |

**QUESTIONS QB1 THROUGH QB22 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK ALL:**

Q.C1 Many people look for a new congregation or house of worship at some point in their adult lives. Please tell me if you have ever looked for a new congregation for any of the following reasons. First, have you ever looked for a new congregation or house of worship because **[INSERT ITEM A]**? Next, have you ever looked for a new congregation because **[INSERT B-D; RANDOMIZE]**? How about because **[INSERT ITEM B-D; RANDOMIZE]**? **READ IF NECESSARY** "Have you ever looked for a new congregation because **[ITEM]**?"<sup>7</sup>

|  | <u>Yes</u> | No/Did not happen/<br>Never looked for a<br>new congregation at<br>any point <b>(VOL.)</b> | <u>DK/Ref. (VOL.)</u> |
|--|------------|--|-----------------------|
| <u>Mar 17-May 6, 2015</u>  |            |  |                       |
| a. You had recently moved  | 34         | 65   | <1                    |
| b. You had gotten married or divorced  | 11         | 89   | <1                    |
| d. You had a disagreement with a<br>clergy member or other people at<br>your previous house of worship | 11         | 88   | <1                    |

<sup>7</sup> Respondents who volunteered that they have never looked for a congregation at any point in their adults lives were not asked the remaining items in this list or QC2.

**ASK IF RESPONDENT DID NOT SAY THEY "NEVER LOOKED FOR A NEW CONGREGATION AT ANY POINT":**

Q.C2 As an adult, has there ever been a time where you looked for a new congregation or house of worship for some other reason? **(SPECIFY)**

**NOTE: RESULTS DO NOT SUM TO SUBTOTALS INDICATED BECAUSE MULTIPLE RESPONSES WERE PERMITTED.**

**BASED ON TOTAL**

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|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>7</b>     | <b>NET Problems with former church</b>                              |
| 3            | Dissatisfaction with church   |
| 3            | Church theology/beliefs   |
| 1            | Prefer different leadership   |
| <1           | Leadership change   |
| <1           | Church programs   |
| <b>5</b>     | <b>NET Change in personal beliefs</b>                               |
| 3            | Exploring/seeking   |
| 1            | Personal growth/beliefs evolved                                     |
| 1            | Changed religions or denominations                                  |
| <b>3</b>     | <b>NET Practical reasons</b>  |
| 2            | Distance/convenience  |
| 1            | Life events   |
| 1            | Previous church closed/never had a previous church                  |
| <1           | Language barriers   |
| <b>3</b>     | <b>NET Social reasons</b>   |
| 1            | Children's needs and education                                      |
| 1            | Looking for a sense of fellowship                                   |
| 1            | Want to attend with friends/family                                  |
| <1           | Networking/finding friends  |
| <b>1</b>     | <b>Unclear</b>  |
| <b>&lt;1</b> | <b>No answer</b>  |
| <b>19</b>    | <b>NET Yes, looked for a new congregation for some other reason</b> |

**ASK ALL WHO LOOKED FOR A NEW CONGREGATION (IN Q.C1a-d OR Q.C2) [N=2,709]:**

Q.C3 When looking for a new congregation or house of worship, did you only consider congregations in the religion or **[IF PROTESTANT INSERT "Protestant"]**denomination you were part of at the time, or did you ever consider one in a different religion or **[IF PROTESTANT INSERT "Protestant"]** denomination?<sup>8</sup>

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|    |   |
|----|---|
| 49 | Only considered congregations in the denomination I was part of at the time |
| 48 | Considered different denomination   |
| 3  | Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>  |

<sup>8</sup> Religious tradition drawn from 2014 U.S. Religious Landscape Study. See corresponding [topline](#) for full results for the question (QE1-QE3v).

## CHOOSING A NEW CHURCH OR HOUSE OF WORSHIP

**ASK ALL WHO LOOKED FOR A NEW CONGREGATION (IN Q.C1a-d OR Q.C2) [N=2,709]:**

Q.C4 Which of the following, if any, have you ever done when looking for a congregation or house of worship? First, have you ever **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]**, or not? Next, have you ever **[INSERT;RANDOMIZE]**, or not? Have you ever **[INSERT;RANDOMIZE]**, or not?

|   | Yes, did<br><u>this</u> | No, did not<br><u>do this</u> | (VOL.)<br>DK/Ref. |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| <u>Mar 17-May 6, 2015</u>   |                         |                               |                   |
| a. Looked for information online about a church or house of worship you were considering      | 37                      | 63                            | <1                |
| b. Made a phone call to a church or house of worship you were considering                     | 19                      | 81                            | <1                |
| c. Talked to members of a congregation you were considering                                   | 69                      | 31                            | 1                 |
| d. Talked to a minister or clergy person at a church or house of worship you were considering | 55                      | 44                            | 1                 |
| e. Attended a worship service at a church or house of worship you were considering            | 85                      | 15                            | <1                |
| f. Talked to friends or colleagues about a church or house of worship you were considering    | 68                      | 32                            | <1                |

**ASK ALL WHO LOOKED FOR A NEW CONGREGATION (IN Q.C1a-d OR Q.C2) [N=2,709]:**

Q.C5 And which if any of the following factors have played an important role in your choice of congregation? First, has **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]** ever played an important role in your choice of congregation, or not? Next, has **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]** ever played an important role in your choice of congregation, or not? Has **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]**, ever played an important role in your choice of congregation? How about **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]**? **[READ AS NECESSARY: Has this ever played an important role in your choice of congregation, or not?]**

|   | Yes,<br>played an<br>important<br><u>role</u> | No, has<br>not ever<br>played an<br>important<br><u>role</u> | (VOL.)<br>DK/Ref. |
|---|---|--|-------------------|
| <u>Mar 17-May 6, 2015</u>   |   |  |                   |
| a. Location   | 70  | 29   | 1                 |
| b. Feeling welcomed by clergy or lay leaders                            | 79  | 21   | 1                 |
| c. The quality of religious education for children                      | 56  | 44   | 1                 |
| d. Having friends or family members who were already going there        | 48  | 51   | <1                |
| e. The style of worship services  | 74  | 24   | 1                 |
| f. The quality of sermons or preaching                                  | 83  | 16   | 1                 |
| g. The availability of volunteering and community service opportunities | 42  | 57   | 1                 |

**ASK ALL WHO LOOKED FOR A NEW CONGREGATION (IN Q.C1a-d OR Q.C2) [N=2,709]:**

Q.C5h Are there any other factors that have played an important role in your choice of congregation?  
(SPECIFY)

**NOTE: RESULTS DO NOT SUM TO SUBTOTALS INDICATED BECAUSE MULTIPLE RESPONSES WERE PERMITTED.**

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|           |                                       |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>13</b> | <b>NET Church programs/leadership</b> |
| 8         | Church's teachings                    |
| 3         | Church leadership                     |
| 2         | Church programs                       |
| 1         | Church's politics                     |
| <1        | Other church programs/leadership      |
| <b>10</b> | <b>NET Church environment</b>         |
| 6         | Welcoming/fellowship                  |
| 3         | Music/style of worship                |
| 1         | Congregation size/demographics        |
| 1         | Other aspects of church environment   |
| <b>5</b>  | <b>NET Other factors</b>              |
| 2         | Family situations                     |
| 2         | Convenience                           |
| 1         | Other personal factors                |
| <b>1</b>  | <b>Unclear</b>                        |
| <b>1</b>  | <b>No answer</b>                      |

**29 Yes, other factors played an important role in choice of congregation**

**ASK ALL WHO LOOKED FOR A NEW CONGREGATION (IN Q.C1a-d OR Q.C2):**

Q.C6 Thinking specifically about the most recent time you looked for a new congregation or house of worship, about how long ago was that? Was it **[READ IN ORDER]**

**BASED ON TOTAL**

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|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| <b>49</b> | <b>NET Ever looked for a new congregation</b>  |
| 9         | Within the last year                           |
| 16        | Between one and five years ago                 |
| 9         | Between five and 10 years ago [OR]             |
| 15        | More than 10 years ago                         |
| 1         | Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>               |
| <b>51</b> | <b>NET Never looked for a new congregation</b> |

**ASK ALL WHO LOOKED FOR A NEW CONGREGATION (IN Q.C1a-d OR Q.C2) [N=2,709]:**

Q.C7 Still thinking about the most recent time you looked, how difficult or easy would you say it was to find a new church or house of worship? Would you say it was **[READ IN ORDER TO RANDOM HALF OF SAMPLE, IN REVERSE ORDER TO OTHER HALF OF SAMPLE]**?

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|    |   |
|----|---|
| 7  | Very difficult                                    |
| 20 | Somewhat difficult                                |
| 26 | Somewhat easy                                     |
| 45 | Very easy   |
| 1  | Did not find a new house of worship <b>(VOL.)</b> |
| 1  | Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>                  |

**ASK IF GAVE ANSWER TO Q.C7:**

Q.C8 What made it [IF VERY/SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT OR DID NOT FIND NEW HOUSE OF WORSHIP IN Q.C7: "difficult"; IF VERY/SOMEWHAT EASY IN Q.C7: "easy"] to find a new congregation? (OPEN END, SPECIFY)

**NOTE: RESULTS DO NOT SUM TO 100% OR TO SUBTOTALS INDICATED BECAUSE MULTIPLE RESPONSES WERE PERMITTED.**

**AMONG THOSE WHO SAID FINDING A NEW CONGREGATION WAS EASY IN Q.C7 [N=1,949]**

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|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| <b>55</b> | <b>NET Convenience</b>                      |
| 43        | Availability/location/logistics             |
| 14        | Easy to find info/find what was looking for |
| <b>36</b> | <b>NET Family/community</b>                 |
| 20        | Invited/friends                             |
| 10        | Family/family situation                     |
| 8         | Felt a sense of fellowship                  |
| <b>12</b> | <b>NET Found a good congregation</b>        |
| 5         | Agreed with theology/worship style          |
| 4         | Liked church's leadership                   |
| 2         | General satisfaction                        |
| 1         | Already familiar with the church            |
| <b>1</b>  | <b>Unclear</b>                              |
| <b>2</b>  | <b>No answer</b>                            |

**AMONG THOSE WHO SAID FINDING A NEW CONGREGATION WAS DIFFICULT IN Q.C7 [N=728]**

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|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| <b>40</b> | <b>NET Dissatisfaction with church practices/religion</b> |
| 26        | Disagreed with theology                                   |
| 5         | General concerns about religion                           |
| 3         | Disliked church's leadership                              |
| 3         | Liked previous church more                                |
| 3         | Personal beliefs evolved                                  |
| <b>33</b> | <b>NET Inconvenience</b>                                  |
| 24        | Availability/location/logistics                           |
| 8         | Hard to find information                                  |
| <b>28</b> | <b>NET Family/community</b>                               |
| 23        | Lack of fellowship  |
| 5         | Family/family situation                                   |
| <b>3</b>  | <b>Unclear</b>  |
| <b>5</b>  | <b>No answer</b>  |

**ASK IF NOW ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES AT LEAST MONTHLY<sup>9</sup>:**

Q.C9 Since you were 18 years old, has there ever been a time in your life when you attended religious services LESS often than you do now?

**BASED ON TOTAL**

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|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| <b>51</b> | <b>NET Attend religious services at least monthly</b>            |
| 27        | Yes, was once a time when attended religious services less often |
| 23        | No, was not a time when attended religious services less often   |
| 1         | Don't know/Refused ( <b>VOL.</b> )                               |
| <b>49</b> | <b>NET Attend religious services a few times a year or less</b>  |

**ASK IF NOW ATTEND AT LEAST MONTHLY AND USED TO ATTEND LESS OFTEN [N=1,349]:**

Q.C10 What is the main reason that you attend religious services more often now than you used to? (**SPECIFY**)

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|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| <b>49</b> | <b>NET Changing beliefs</b>            |
| 20        | Become more religious                  |
| 15        | Need God/religion/church in their life |
| 14        | More mature/older                      |
| <b>23</b> | <b>NET Social factors</b>              |
| 13        | Family changes                         |
| 6         | Life phase/lifestyle changes           |
| 4         | Desire for fellowship/church life      |
| <b>20</b> | <b>NET Practical issues</b>            |
| 10        | Have time now/scheduling               |
| 6         | Convenience/habit                      |
| 3         | Found a congregation they like more    |
| <b>1</b>  | <b>Other</b>                           |
| <b>2</b>  | <b>Unclear</b>                         |
| <b>5</b>  | <b>No answer</b>                       |

**ASK IF NOW ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES A FEW TIMES A YEAR OR LESS AND USED TO ATTEND MORE OFTEN<sup>10</sup>:**

Q.C11 Since you were 18 years old, has there ever been a time in your life when you attended religious services MORE often than you do now?

**BASED ON TOTAL**

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2015

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| <b>49</b> | <b>NET Attend religious services a few times a year or less</b>  |
| 22        | Yes, was once a time when attended religious services more often |
| 27        | No, was not a time when attended religious services more often   |
| 1         | Don't know/Refused ( <b>VOL.</b> )                               |
| <b>51</b> | <b>NET Attend religious services at least monthly</b>            |

<sup>9</sup> Frequency of attendance at religious services drawn from 2014 U.S. Religious Landscape Study. See corresponding [topline](#) for full results for the question (ATTEND).

<sup>10</sup> Frequency of attendance at religious services drawn from 2014 U.S. Religious Landscape Study. See corresponding [topline](#) for full results for the question (ATTEND).

**ASK IF NOW ATTEND A FEW TIMES A YEAR OR LESS AND USED TO ATTEND MORE OFTEN  
[N=1,297]:**

Q.C12 What is the main reason that you attend religious services LESS often now than you used to?  
(SPECIFY)

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|           |                                    |
|-----------|------------------------------------|
| <b>50</b> | <b>NET Practical issues</b>        |
| 20        | Too busy                           |
| 10        | Personal priorities                |
| 8         | Practical difficulties             |
| 6         | Old age/health reasons             |
| 5         | Looking for a congregation         |
| <b>26</b> | <b>NET Changing beliefs/church</b> |
| 17        | Beliefs changed                    |
| 6         | Disagree with church teachings     |
| 2         | Church has changed                 |
| <b>17</b> | <b>NET Social factors</b>          |
| 7         | Family changes                     |
| 5         | No longer expected to attend       |
| 3         | Attended with someone              |
| 2         | Life phase/lifestyle changed       |
| 1         | Other social reasons               |
| <b>1</b>  | <b>Other</b>                       |
| <b>2</b>  | <b>Unclear</b>                     |
| <b>5</b>  | <b>No answer</b>                   |



**ASK IF SWITCHED FROM AFFILIATED TO UNAFFILIATED [N=956<sup>11</sup>]:**

Q.C13 Last year you told us you currently think of yourself as **[INSERT: an atheist/an agnostic/having no particular religion]**, and you were raised **[INSERT: Christian/Catholic/Jewish/Muslim/Hindu/in a religion]**. Just in your own words, what would you say is the main reason that you now think of yourself as **[an atheist/an agnostic/having no particular religion]**?<sup>12</sup> **(SPECIFY)**

**NOTE: RESULTS DO NOT SUM TO 100% OR TO SUBTOTALS INDICATED BECAUSE MULTIPLE RESPONSES WERE PERMITTED.**

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|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>49</b>    | <b>NET Don't believe</b>                |
| 36           | Disenchanted/don't believe              |
| 7            | Not interested in/don't need religion   |
| 7            | Views evolved                           |
| 1            | Went through a crisis of faith          |
| <b>20</b>    | <b>NET Dislike organized religion</b>   |
| 15           | Anti-institutional religion             |
| 4            | Religion focuses on power/politics      |
| 1            | Religion causes conflict                |
| <b>18</b>    | <b>NET Religiously unsure/undecided</b> |
| 7            | Unaffiliated but religious              |
| 6            | Seeking/open-minded                     |
| 3            | Spiritual but not religious             |
| 2            | Uncertain about beliefs                 |
| <b>10</b>    | <b>NET Inactive believer</b>            |
| 8            | Non-practicing                          |
| 2            | Too busy                                |
| <b>&lt;1</b> | <b>Other</b>                            |
| <b>1</b>     | <b>Unclear</b>                          |
| <b>5</b>     | <b>No answer</b>                        |

**REMAINING QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

<sup>11</sup> A small number of respondents (N=20) that were asked this question volunteered that were still affiliated with their childhood religion and are not included in results for this question.

<sup>12</sup> Religious tradition drawn from 2014 U.S. Religious Landscape Study. See corresponding [topline](#) for full results for the question (QE1-QE3v).