

DEFINITELY...MAYBE...NO WAY: DO CANADIANS BELIEVE IN GOD?

ASSOCIATION FOR CANADIAN STUDIES

JULY 2019

JACK JEDWAB, PRESIDENT OF THE ACS

METHODOLOGY

- The results of the poll were collected via a Web survey conducted by Leger for the Association for Canadian Studies between May 3 - May 7, 2019 among a representative sample of 2,215 Canadians, 18 years of age or older.
- Using data from Statistics Canada, the results were weighted according to gender, age, region, language spoken at home, education and whether or not children are present in the household to ensure a sample representative of the entire population under review. For comparison purposes, a probability sample of 2,215 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.08\%$, 19 times out of 20.

QUEBECERS AND BRITISH COLUMBIANS LEAST LIKELY TO BELIEVE IN GOD

	I believe in God						Total
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	I don't know	I prefer not to answer	
Alberta	37.9%	25.8%	8.5%	17.3%	5.6%	4.8%	100.0%
British Columbia	30.6%	17.6%	14.0%	25.6%	7.6%	4.7%	100.0%
Manitoba	43.0%	22.8%	5.1%	15.2%	7.6%	6.3%	100.0%
New Brunswick	54.2%	6.3%	8.3%	10.4%	18.8%	2.1%	100.0%
Newfoundland	44.7%	21.1%	2.6%	13.2%	18.4%		100.0%
Nova Scotia	35.6%	6.8%	8.5%	33.9%	11.9%	3.4%	100.0%
Ontario	39.8%	23.8%	9.1%	15.4%	9.1%	2.9%	100.0%
Prince Edward Island	40.0%			20.0%	40.0%		100.0%
Quebec	27.7%	25.8%	12.7%	20.8%	8.5%	4.4%	100.0%
Saskatchewan	47.8%	25.4%	9.0%		16.4%	1.5%	100.0%
Total	36.1%	22.7%	10.2%	18.2%	9.0%	3.7%	100.0%

BABY BOOMERS MOST LIKELY TO BELIEVE IN GOD

	I believe in God						Total
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	I don't know	I prefer not to answer	
Between 18 and 24	31.3%	14.6%	15.0%	23.3%	10.8%	5.0%	100.0%
Between 25 and 34	27.3%	18.5%	13.5%	29.5%	9.6%	1.7%	100.0%
Between 35 and 44	34.4%	20.9%	9.8%	17.9%	12.8%	4.2%	100.0%
Between 45 and 54	32.0%	24.4%	10.1%	16.6%	11.3%	5.5%	100.0%
Between 55 and 64	41.1%	26.1%	9.3%	12.9%	7.5%	3.1%	100.0%
Between 65 and 74	44.7%	29.1%	6.1%	12.7%	5.2%	2.3%	100.0%
75 or older	50.8%	21.7%	7.5%	13.3%	.8%	5.8%	100.0%
Total	36.1%	22.7%	10.2%	18.2%	9.0%	3.7%	100.0%

MUSLIMS, JEWS AND PROTESTANTS MOST LIKELY TO BELIEVE IN GOD

	I believe in God						
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	I don't know	I prefer not to answer	Total
Catholic	48.2%	29.7%	9.0%	4.6%	5.5%	3.0%	100.0%
Protestant	61.3%	30.4%	3.4%	1.1%	3.7%		100.0%
Muslim	79.3%	8.6%	3.4%		3.4%	5.2%	100.0%
Jewish	60.9%	8.7%	4.3%		21.7%	4.3%	100.0%
Atheist (not religious)	1.2%	11.5%	17.4%	53.7%	14.0%	2.2%	100.0%
Total	36.1%	22.7%	10.2%	18.2%	9.0%	3.7%	100.0%

WOMEN MORE LIKELY THAN MEN TO BELIEVE IN GOD

	I believe in God						
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	I don't know	I prefer not to answer	Total
Male	32.5%	24.2%	11.6%	18.4%	9.7%	3.6%	100.0%
Female	39.5%	21.2%	9.0%	18.0%	8.3%	4.0%	100.0%
Total	36.1%	22.7%	10.2%	18.2%	9.0%	3.7%	100.0%

ETHNIC MINORITY CANADIANS MOST LIKELY TO BELIEVE IN GOD

	I believe in God						Total
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	I don't know	I prefer not to answer	
French	24.1%	26.2%	14.1%	21.9%	8.9%	4.8%	100.0%
English	37.7%	21.5%	9.3%	18.4%	9.8%	3.2%	100.0%
Other	43.1%	22.9%	8.5%	10.5%	5.9%	9.2%	100.0%
French and other	55.6%	11.1%	22.2%	11.1%			100.0%
English and other	45.6%	21.3%	9.6%	15.4%	5.1%	2.9%	100.0%
Other and other	66.7%	16.7%	6.7%	6.7%	3.3%		100.0%
English and French	34.9%	23.8%	9.5%	20.6%	11.1%		100.0%
Total	36.1%	22.7%	10.3%	18.2%	9.0%	3.8%	100.0%

LESS THAN ONE IN TEN QUEBECERS OFTEN ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES

	Attend religious services						Total
	Often	Occasionally	Rarely	Never	I don't know	I prefer not to answer	
Alberta	23.3%	14.9%	27.3%	33.7%	.8%		100.0%
British Columbia	12.6%	14.0%	27.2%	44.2%	1.0%	1.0%	100.0%
Manitoba	19.0%	16.5%	24.1%	29.1%	7.6%	3.8%	100.0%
New Brunswick	44.9%	4.1%	20.4%	30.6%			100.0%
Newfoundland	16.2%	21.6%	43.2%	13.5%	5.4%		100.0%
Nova Scotia	11.9%	16.9%	28.8%	39.0%	3.4%		100.0%
Ontario	17.8%	18.5%	31.2%	28.9%	2.5%	1.2%	100.0%
Saskatchewan	22.7%	16.7%	43.9%	15.2%		1.5%	100.0%
Quebec	9.7%	23.2%	39.6%	25.9%	1.4%	.4%	100.0%
Total	18.5%	16.5%	30.0%	31.9%	2.1%	1.0%	100.0%



RELIGIOUS GROUPS VIEWS OF RELIGIOUS SYMBOLS



ATHEISTS AND CATHOLICS HOLD MOST NEGATIVE VIEWS OF HIJABS

	Hijab Definition: a head covering that does not hide one's face that is worn in public by some Muslim women				
	Very positive	Somewhat positive	Somewhat negative	Very negative	Total
Catholic	10.4%	32.4%	29.4%	27.7%	100.0%
Protestant	12.7%	35.5%	32.9%	18.9%	100.0%
Muslim	66.7%	22.8%	7.0%	3.5%	100.0%
Jewish	10.5%	52.6%	26.3%	10.5%	100.0%
Atheist (not religious)	11.0%	31.0%	31.6%	26.4%	100.0%
Total	14.4%	33.6%	28.3%	23.8%	100.0%

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ATHEISTS, CRUCIFIXES ARE SEEN MOSTLY POSITIVE ACROSS ALL RELIGIOUS GROUPS

	Crucifixes Definition: a representation of a cross with a figure of Jesus Christ on it				
	Very positive	Somewhat positive	Somewhat negative	Very negative	Total
Catholic	34.6%	53.2%	10.3%	2.0%	100.0%
Protestant	21.9%	61.6%	15.2%	1.3%	100.0%
Muslim	31.7%	41.5%	17.1%	9.8%	100.0%
Jewish	13.3%	66.7%	13.3%	6.7%	100.0%
Hindu	17.4%	43.5%	17.4%	21.7%	100.0%
Atheist (not religious)	5.7%	32.3%	41.5%	20.5%	100.0%
Total	22.9%	47.2%	21.4%	8.5%	100.0%

KIPPAS VIEWED MOSTLY POSITIVELY ACROSS ALL GROUPS

	Kippas Definition: a skullcap worn in public by Orthodox Jewish men or during prayer by other Jewish men				
	Very positive	Somewhat positive	Somewhat negative	Very negative	Total
Catholic	13.4%	46.8%	25.0%	14.8%	100.0%
Protestant	15.5%	66.2%	12.6%	5.8%	100.0%
Muslim	34.1%	51.2%	2.4%	12.2%	100.0%
Jewish	65.2%	30.4%	4.3%		100.0%
Atheist (not religious)	14.2%	47.3%	22.7%	15.8%	100.0%
Total	17.0%	51.3%	19.9%	11.8%	100.0%

CROSSES VIEWED NEGATIVELY BY ATHEISTS

	Crosses Definition: an upright post with a transverse bar, as used in antiquity for crucifixion				
	Very positive	Somewhat positive	Somewhat negative	Very negative	Total
Catholic	32.1%	52.4%	12.1%	3.4%	100.0%
Protestant	34.5%	57.7%	6.8%	1.0%	100.0%
Muslim	36.6%	51.2%	4.9%	7.3%	100.0%
Jewish	20.0%	60.0%	13.3%	6.7%	100.0%
Atheist (not religious)	6.7%	38.5%	38.0%	16.7%	100.0%
Total	24.3%	49.4%	18.1%	8.3%	100.0%

ATHEISTS VIEW MOST RELIGIOUS SYMBOLS NEGATIVELY

	Atheist (not religious)				
Atheist (not religious)	Very positive	Somewhat positive	Somewhat negative	Very negative	Total
Hijabs Definition: a head covering that does not hide one's face that is worn in public by some Muslim women	11.0%	31.0%	31.6%	26.4%	100.0%
Kippas Definition: a skullcap worn in public by Orthodox Jewish men or during prayer by other Jewish men	14.2%	47.3%	22.7%	15.8%	100.0%
Crucifixes Definition: a representation of a cross with a figure of Jesus Christ on it	5.7%	32.3%	41.5%	20.5%	100.0%
Crosses Definition: an upright post with a transverse bar, as used in antiquity for crucifixion	6.7%	38.5%	38.0%	16.7%	100.0%



QUEBEC



FRANCOPHONE QUEBECERS LEAST LIKELY TO BELIEVE IN GOD

Quebec vs. ROC	I believe in God						
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	I don't know	I prefer not to answer	Total
French	22.4%	27.7%	14.7%	22.7%	8.2%	4.2%	100.0%
English	37.9%	24.1%	6.9%	17.2%	10.3%	3.4%	100.0%
Other	42.4%	21.2%	6.1%	12.1%	9.1%	9.1%	100.0%
French and other	71.4%	14.3%		14.3%			100.0%
English and other	48.3%	13.8%	6.9%	17.2%	13.8%		100.0%
Other and other	62.5%	25.0%	12.5%				100.0%
English and French	35.7%	21.4%	14.3%	21.4%	7.1%		100.0%
Total	27.6%	25.9%	13.0%	20.9%	8.4%	4.2%	100.0%

QUEBECERS UNDER 35 LEAST LIKELY TO BELIEVE IN GOD

Quebec	I believe in God						Total
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	I don't know	I prefer not to answer	
Between 18 and 24	21.3%	13.1%	16.4%	29.5%	14.8%	4.9%	100.0%
Between 25 and 34	18.8%	15.3%	16.5%	35.3%	10.6%	3.5%	100.0%
Between 35 and 44	27.6%	27.6%	12.6%	19.5%	9.2%	3.4%	100.0%
Between 45 and 54	26.2%	28.6%	13.1%	19.0%	9.5%	3.6%	100.0%
Between 55 and 64	28.1%	34.8%	12.4%	12.4%	6.7%	5.6%	100.0%
Between 65 and 74	37.2%	28.7%	9.6%	14.9%	5.3%	4.3%	100.0%
75 or older	40.0%	30.0%	5.0%	15.0%		10.0%	100.0%
Total	27.5%	25.6%	12.9%	21.0%	8.7%	4.4%	100.0%

QUEBECERS UNDER 35 LEAST LIKELY TO ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES

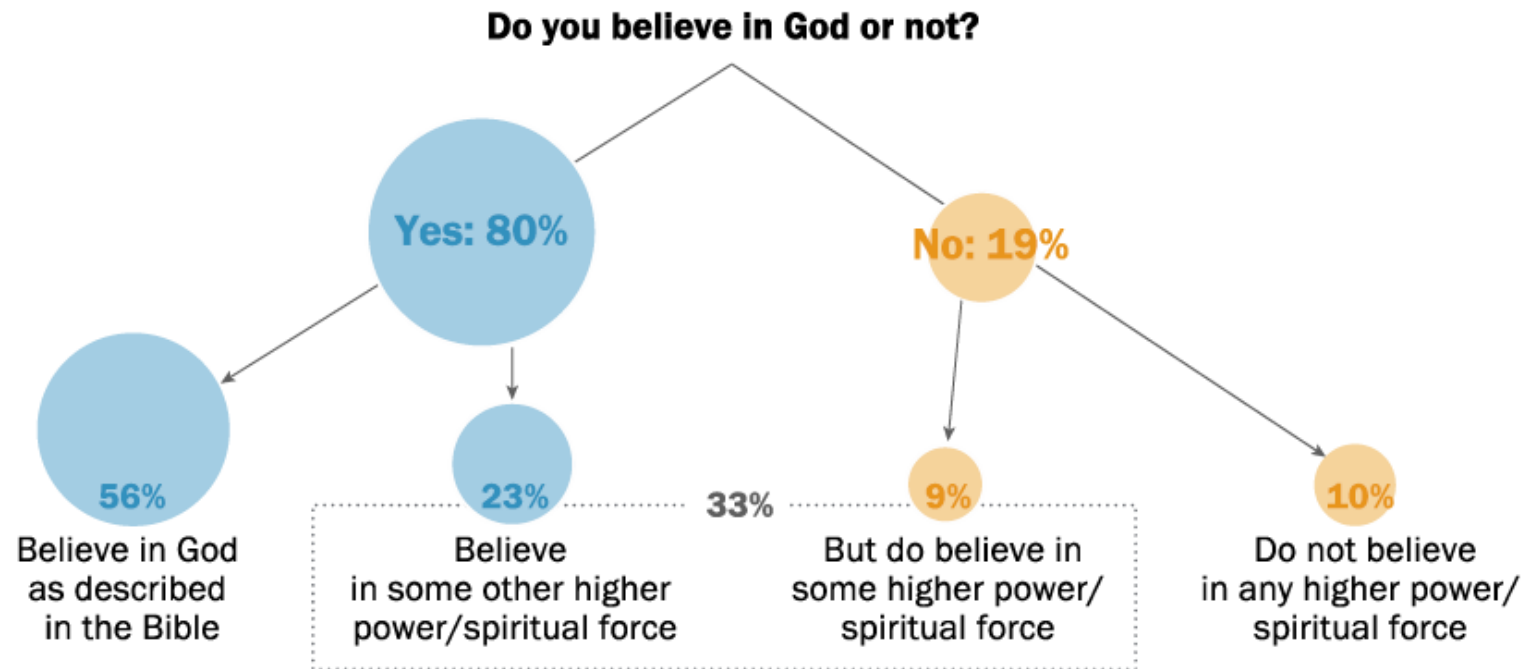
Quebec	Attend Religious Services						Total
	Often	Occasionally	Rarely	Never	I don't know	I prefer not to answer	
Between 18 and 24	9.8%	18.0%	27.9%	39.3%	4.9%		100.0%
Between 25 and 34	8.3%	15.5%	38.1%	35.7%	2.4%		100.0%
Between 35 and 44	4.7%	27.9%	36.0%	30.2%		1.2%	100.0%
Between 45 and 54	7.2%	21.7%	45.8%	24.1%	1.2%		100.0%
Between 55 and 64	10.1%	24.7%	47.2%	18.0%			100.0%
Between 65 and 74	12.8%	29.8%	40.4%	14.9%	1.1%	1.1%	100.0%
75 or older	27.3%	18.2%	36.4%	18.2%			100.0%
Total	9.6%	23.1%	39.7%	25.8%	1.3%	.4%	100.0%



AMERICANS ARE THE MOST RELIGIOUS



MAJORITY OF AMERICANS FIRM BELIEVERS IN GOD



Note: Don't know or unclear responses not shown. Figures may not add to subtotals indicated due to rounding.

Source: Survey conducted Dec. 4-18, 2017, among U.S. adults.

"When Americans Say They Believe in God, What Do They Mean?"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

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