



**NATIONAL  
STUDY OF  
YOUTH &  
RELIGION**

# **Survey Instrument**

**National Study of Youth and Religion  
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
CB# 3057  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3057  
[www.youthandreligion.org](http://www.youthandreligion.org)  
[youthandreligion@unc.edu](mailto:youthandreligion@unc.edu)  
919-918-5294**

# Introduction to the National Study of Youth and Religion Survey Instrument

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This document contains the survey instrument used in the National Study of Youth and Religion (NSYR) telephone survey. The survey was conducted with one parent and one teen between the ages of 13 and 17 from each participating household. Please keep in mind:

1. **The parent survey was conducted first, followed by the survey with the teen.** Answers provided by the parent are used to determine eligibility for some of the questions in the teen survey.
2. **All questions from the parent survey are preceded by “P.” All questions from the teen survey are preceded by “Y.”**
3. **Not all questions were asked of every respondent.** Whether or not a respondent was asked a particular question was dependent on the skip pattern that precedes each question. There are many questions for which there are multiple versions of the same question worded slightly differently for different groups of respondents.
4. **Skip patterns that determine eligibility for a specific question are highlighted above the question or group of questions.** The mathematical code provided is the most accurate reflection of the skip patterns. However, the written versions of the skip patterns are provided for clarity.
5. **In the parent survey, skip patterns that reference the teen are based on parent reports.** The parent survey was completed first and included many questions about the participating teen. Any question in the parent survey that is based on information about the teen is information gathered from the parent respondent earlier in the survey. Information provided by parents about the teen and information provided by the teen directly does not always match.
6. **Placeholders for variable terms that were inserted by the computer program during the administration of the survey appear in [ALL CAPS].** The explanations of these placeholders, along with the inserted terms and programming codes are provided in the Appendix.
7. **This is NOT a codebook.** This copy of the survey instrument is provided for information purposes only. It should not be used as a codebook for the purpose of data analysis. There are a few questions and skip patterns that have been altered to reflect the best possible survey implementation for use on future surveys and may vary slightly from what was used in the actual NSYR data collection.
8. **We welcome replication of the questions found in this survey instrument.** The NSYR office would appreciate being notified when others replicate any of these questions on future surveys,

## Parent Survey National Study of Youth and Religion

[Complete introduction script available upon request from the National Study of Youth and Religion.]

[INTERVIEWER RECORDS SEX OF RESPONENT] [ASK ONLY IF INTERVIEWER DOESN'T KNOW FOR CERTAIN THE SEX OF THE PARENT RESPONDENT]

P1A. Can you tell me your sex, are you male or female?

- 0. FEMALE
- 1. MALE

P1B. I am going to ask some questions about the teenager in your household age 13 to 17 who had the MOST RECENT birthday. Can you tell me his or her first name so we always know who we are talking about? [PROBE: "We need to know this in order to ask the survey's questions properly" [PROBE: IF REFUSE, ASK FOR INITIALS ONLY. IF STILL REFUSE, PUNCH 2 "your child"]

- 1. Record first name
- 2. Your Child

[If parent refused to provide child's name]

[IF P1B=2]

P1B1: That's fine, you don't need to give me their name. But just to be clear, when I refer to YOUR CHILD, I mean this teenager who has had the most recent birthday.

P1C. Is [your teen] a boy or a girl? [IF REFUSED: Okay then for the purpose of being able to continue with the survey I will assume that the child is a boy.]

- 0. BOY
- 1. GIRL

[If parent respondent is female]

[IF P1A=1]

P2A. What is your relationship to [your teen]? Are you the mother, step-mother, or something else?

[READ LIST ONLY IF NECESSARY]

- 1. BIOLOGICAL MOTHER
- 2. ADOPTIVE MOTHER
- 3. STEP-MOTHER
- 4. GRANDMOTHER
- 5. FOSTER MOTHER
- 6. LEGAL GUARDIAN
- 7. FATHER'S PARTNER
- 8. OTHER
- 9. DON'T KNOW [DO NOT READ]
- 10. REFUSED [DO NOT READ]

[If parent respondent is male]

[IF P1A=0]

P2B. What is your relationship to [your teen]? Are you the father, step-father, or something else?

[READ LIST ONLY IF NECESSARY]

- 1. BIOLOGICAL FATHER
- 2. ADOPTIVE FATHER
- 3. STEP-FATHER
- 4. GRANDFATHER

P4. How much do you monitor [your teen]'s television and movie watching? [READ LIST]

1. Always
2. Usually
3. Sometimes
4. Rarely
5. Never
6. DON'T KNOW [DO NOT READ]
7. REFUSED [DO NOT READ]

P5. How much do you monitor [your teen]'s Internet use: always, usually, sometimes, rarely, or never, or does [your teen] not have access to the Internet?

1. ALWAYS
2. USUALLY
3. SOMETIMES
4. RARELY
5. NEVER
6. DOES NOT HAVE ACCESS TO INTERNET
7. DON'T KNOW [DO NOT READ]
8. REFUSED [DO NOT READ]

P7 TEXT. Now I am going to read you a list of things some parents think are important and others do not. Please tell me how important or not each is to you.

P7a1. How important or not important is it to you [INSERT LIST A-C] [ROTATE]

- A. to know WHERE [your teen] is and WHO (he / she) is WITH at all times?
- B. to have a lot of say-so about [your teen]'s friends and activities?
- C. to spend a lot of time doing activities together with [your teen]?

P7a2. How important or not important is it to you [INSERT LIST E-I] [ROTATE]

- E. that [your teen] does volunteer work or community service?
- G. that [your teen] participates in sports?
- H. that [your teen] participates in extracurricular activities and programs other than sports?
- I. that [your teen] someday graduates from college?

[READ LIST AS NEEDED]

1. Extremely Important
2. Very
3. Somewhat
4. Not very
5. Not important at all
6. DON'T KNOW [DO NOT READ]
7. REFUSED [DO NOT READ]

P8. How often, if at all, have you encouraged [your teen] to do volunteer work or community service?: [READ LIST]

1. Very often
2. Fairly often
3. Sometimes
4. Not very often, or
5. Not at all
6. DON'T KNOW [DO NOT READ]
7. REFUSED [DO NOT READ]

P9. Thinking about [your teen]'s friends, what kind of influence do you think they have on [your teen] overall? Is their influence generally: [READ LIST]

1. Very negative
2. Somewhat negative
3. Neither
4. Somewhat positive
5. Very positive
6. DON'T KNOW [DO NOT READ]
7. REFUSED [DO NOT READ]

P10 TEXT. Now please tell me whether or not you have done any of the following things with [your teen] in the past SIX MONTHS.

P10. In the last 6 months, have you [INSERT LIST A-E]?

[ROTATE LIST]

- A. visited a museum, an art gallery, or historical site together with [your teen], or not?
- B. gone to a play, concert or other show together, or not?
- C. visited a library together, or not?
- D. worked on a project such as making a craft, building or fixing something together, or not?
- E. played a game, sport, or exercised together, or not?

0. NO
1. YES
2. DON'T KNOW [DO NOT READ]
3. REFUSED [DO NOT READ]

P11 TEXT. Now I have some questions about activities you may be involved with.

P11. In the last SIX MONTHS, have you (or your spouse/partner) done any volunteer work or community service with a group or organization?

0. NO
1. YES
2. DON'T KNOW [DO NOT READ]
3. REFUSED [DO NOT READ]

[If parent respondent or spouse/partner has done volunteer work or community service with a group or organization]

[IF P11=1]

P12. About how many HOURS PER MONTH on average did you (and your spouse/partner) do volunteer work or community service? [PROBE: "A ballpark estimate is fine."] [RECORD IN HOURS, RANGE =0-300, 777=DK, 888=REF]

[If parent respondent or spouse/partner has done volunteer work or community service with a group or organization]

[IF P11=1]

P12A. About how much of that volunteer work or community service was done through a religious organization. Would you say ...

1. All
2. Three quarters
3. Half
4. One quarter
5. None
6. DON'T KNOW [DO NOT READ]
7. REFUSED [DO NOT READ]

P13. In the last 12 MONTHS, have you (or your spouse/partner): [INSERT LIST A-D]

- A. Contacted an elected political official?
- B. Attended a political meeting or rally?
- C. Participated in a protest, march, or demonstration?
- D. Participated in an organized project to try to solve a community problem?

- 0. NO
- 1. YES
- 2. DON'T KNOW [DO NOT READ]
- 3. REFUSED [DO NOT READ]

P15. In the last 12 MONTHS, how much, if at all, did you help homeless people, needy neighbors, or other people in need, directly, not through an organization? [READ LIST]

- 1. A lot
- 2. Some
- 3. A little
- 4. None
- 5. DON'T KNOW [DO NOT READ]
- 6. REFUSED [DO NOT READ]

P16. In the last 12 MONTHS, did you give any money to any organizations or causes altogether totaling to more than \$500, or not?

- 0. NO
- 1. YES
- 2. DON'T KNOW [DO NOT READ]
- 3. REFUSED [DO NOT READ]

P19. In NATIONAL political elections, do you always vote, sometimes vote, occasionally vote, or never vote?

- 1. ALWAYS
- 2. SOMETIMES
- 3. OCCASIONALLY
- 4. NEVER
- 5. DON'T KNOW [DO NOT READ]
- 6. REFUSED [DO NOT READ]

P20. Generally, how safe do you usually feel in your neighborhood? [READ LIST]

- 1. Very safe
- 2. Mostly safe
- 3. Somewhat safe
- 4. Not very safe
- 5. DON'T KNOW [DO NOT READ]
- 6. REFUSED [DO NOT READ]

P26 TEXT. Now I have a few questions about your family situation.

P26A: IN ADDITION to yourself (and your spouse/partner), are there any other people 18 years of age or OLDER that live in your household?

- 0. NO
- 1. YES
- 2. DON'T KNOW
- 3. REFUSED

[If there are other people over age 18 living in the household, not including the parent respondent or the spouse/partner]

[IF P26A=1]

## Teen Survey National Study of Youth and Religion

[Transition script between parent and youth interviews is available upon request from the National Study of Youth and Religion.]

**YE1.** Okay, before we begin I need to be sure: are you now alone, in private, and free to speak honestly in answering our questions?

1. YES [GO TO Y1]
2. NO [GO TO YE2]
3. DK/NA/RF [GO TO YE2]

**YE2.** Can you move to a room or area of the house where you would be alone, in private, and free to speak honestly?

1. YES [GO TO YE3]
2. NO [GO TO YE4]
3. DK/NA/RF [GO TO YE4]

**YE3.** I will wait while you move to a more private area. Let me know as soon as you are ready to continue. [WAIT, THEN GO TO Y1]

[INTERVIEWER NOTE: "MOTHER," "FATHER," AND "PARENTS" ARE IN REFERENCE TO THE PARENTS WITH WHOM THE YOUTH LIVES IN HOUSEHOLD]

Y1 TEXT: I'd like to begin with some questions about your relationships with people who live in your household. First, I have some questions about your **[MOTHER NAME 2]**.

Y1 – Y9: [If parent respondent is female **OR** if parent respondent is male and is married or living with a partner] **[P1A=1 OR (P1A=0 AND P2C<3)]**

Y1: First, how close or not close do you feel to your **[MOTHER NAME]**? [READ LIST]

1. Extremely close
2. Very
3. Fairly
4. Somewhat
5. Not very, or
6. Not close at all
7. DON'T KNOW [DO NOT READ]
8. REFUSED [DO NOT READ]

Y2: Generally, how well do you and your **[MOTHER NAME]** get along? [READ LIST]

1. Extremely well
2. Very well
3. Fairly well
4. Not so well
5. Pretty poorly
6. Very badly
7. DON'T KNOW [DO NOT READ]
8. REFUSED [DO NOT READ]

Y3: How **OFTEN** do you talk with your **[MOTHER NAME]** about personal subjects, such as friendships, dating, or drinking? [READ LIST]

1. Very often
2. Fairly often

3. DON'T KNOW [DO NOT READ]
4. REFUSED [DO NOT READ]

Y104: How much do you personally care or not about [INSERT LIST A-C]? Do you care: [READ LIST]

- A. equality between different racial groups
- B. the needs of elderly people in this country
- C. the needs of poor people in this country

1. Very much
2. Somewhat
3. A little, or
4. Do you not really care?
5. DON'T KNOW [DO NOT READ]
6. REFUSED [DO NOT READ]

Y105: In the last year, have you had to work hard to fix a broken friendship or other relationship, or not?

0. NO
1. YES
2. DON'T KNOW [DO NOT READ]
3. REFUSED [DO NOT READ]

Y107: Some people say that morals about what is right and wrong should be based on a fixed and unchanging standard. Do you agree or disagree?

1. AGREE
2. DISAGREE
3. DON'T KNOW [DO NOT READ]
4. REFUSED [DO NOT READ]

Y108: How much, if at all, have the terrorist attacks of September 11 changed your life?: [READ LIST]

1. A lot
2. Some
3. A little
4. None
5. DON'T KNOW [DO NOT READ]
6. REFUSED [DO NOT READ]

Y109 TEXT: Now I want to find out about any organized activities such as sports, clubs, programs, or extracurricular activities that you may be involved in, either at school, in a religious organization, or community group. This does not include work for pay.

[If teen has not stopped going to school]

[P57<4]

Y109. Please tell me, are there any REGULAR, ORGANIZED activities you do AFTER SCHOOL or IN THE EVENINGS? [DO NOT RECORD WORK FOR PAY OR JUST HANGING OUT; PROBE: IF TYPE OF ACTIVITY NOT OBVIOUS, ASK: "WHAT KIND OF ACTIVITY IS THAT?"] [RECORD UP TO 6 MENTIONS]

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. NONE
8. DON'T KNOW
9. REFUSED

[If teen has stopped going to school]

[IF P57=4]

Y109A1. Please tell me, are there any regular, organized activities you do during the day OR IN THE EVENINGS? [DO NOT RECORD WORK FOR PAY OR JUST HANGING OUT; PROBE: IF TYPE OF ACTIVITY NOT OBVIOUS, ASK: "WHAT KIND OF ACTIVITY IS THAT?"] [RECORD UP TO 6 MENTIONS]

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. NONE
8. DON'T KNOW
9. REFUSED

Y109B. What about any other REGULAR, ORGANIZED activities you do on the WEEKENDS, not including religious services? [DO NOT RECORD WORK FOR PAY OR JUST HANGING OUT; PROBE: IF TYPE OF ACTIVITY NOT OBVIOUS, ASK: "WHAT KIND OF ACTIVITY IS THAT?"] [RECORD UP TO 6 MENTIONS]

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. NONE
8. DON'T KNOW
9. REFUSED

Y109C. Are there any other activities, hobby clubs, classes, or OTHER organizations that you are involved in? [DO NOT RECORD WORK FOR PAY OR JUST HANGING OUT; PROBE: IF TYPE OF ACTIVITY NOT OBVIOUS, ASK: "WHAT KIND OF ACTIVITY IS THAT?"] [RECORD UP TO 6 MENTIONS]

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. NONE
8. DON'T KNOW
9. REFUSED

Y109D: [INSERT LIST A-E]

- A. Which, if any, of these activities are organized or sponsored by a religious organization?
- B. Which, if any, of these activities are organized through school?
- C. In which, if any, of these activities do you spend 2 or more hours in a typical week?
- D. [IF 109DC>0, LIST] In which, if any, of these activities do you spend 5 or more hours in a typical week?
- E. [IF 109DD>0, LIST] In which, if any, of these activities do you spend 8 or more hours in a typical week?

[RECORD ALL MENTIONS]

1. [INSERT LIST OF ALL Y109 SERIES RESPONSES]

2. All OF THE ABOVE
3. NONE
4. DON'T KNOW [DO NOT READ]
5. REFUSED [DO NOT READ]

Y110: In the last year, have you given any of your OWN money to any organizations or causes, altogether totaling to more than \$20, or not? [INCLUDES GIVING MONEY TO CHURCH]

0. NO
1. YES
2. DON'T KNOW [DO NOT READ]
3. REFUSED [DO NOT READ]

[if teen has given away more than \$20 of their own money to an organization]

[IF Y110=1]

Y111: Were the organizations or causes you gave money to religious, not religious, or both?

1. RELIGIOUS
2. NOT RELIGIOUS
3. BOTH
4. DON'T KNOW [DO NOT READ]
5. REFUSED [DO NOT READ]

Y113: In the last TWO years, have you been involved in any political activities, not including student government, such as signing a political petition, attending a political meeting, or contacting an elected official, or not?

0. NO
1. YES
2. DON'T KNOW [DO NOT READ]
3. REFUSED [DO NOT READ]

Y114: In the last year, how much, if at all, have you done organized volunteer work or community service? [READ LIST]

1. Never
2. A few times
3. Occasionally, or
4. Regularly
5. DON'T KNOW [DO NOT READ]
6. REFUSED [DO NOT READ]

[If teen has done volunteer work or community service regularly in the last year]

[IF Y114=4]

Y115: About how many times in an AVERAGE MONTH do you do volunteer work or community service work? [RECORD NUMBER OF TIMES, RANGE = 0-70, 70=70 OR MORE, 98 = DON'T KNOW, 99 = REFUSED]

[If teen has done volunteer work or community service occasionally in the last year]

[IF Y114=3]

Y116: About how many TIMES in the last year did you do volunteer work or community service work? [RECORD NUMBER OF TIMES, RANGE = 0-80, 80=80 OR MORE, 98 = DON'T KNOW, 99 = REFUSED]

[If teen has done volunteer work or community service a few times, occasionally, or regularly in the last year]

[IF Y114=2, 3, 4]

Y117: How much, if any, of this volunteer work or community service was organized by a religious organization or congregation? [READ LIST]

1. All
2. Most

3. About half
4. Some
5. A little
6. None
7. DON'T KNOW [DO NOT READ]
8. REFUSED [DO NOT READ]

[If teen has done volunteer work or community service a few times, occasionally, or regularly in the last year]

[IF Y114=2, 3, 4]

Y118: How much, if at all, did your volunteer or service activities bring you into direct contact with people of a different race, religion, or economic class? [READ LIST]

1. A lot
2. Some
3. A little
4. None
5. DON'T KNOW [DO NOT READ]
6. REFUSED [DO NOT READ]

[If teen has done volunteer work or community service a few times, occasionally, or regularly in the last year]

[IF Y114=2, 3, 4]

Y120: How much, if any, of this volunteer or community service work did you do because you were required to by a school, juvenile justice program, or by a parent? [READ LIST]

1. All of it
2. Most
3. Some
4. None of it
5. DON'T KNOW [DO NOT READ]
6. REFUSED [DO NOT READ]

Y119: In the last year, how much, if at all, did you help homeless people, needy neighbors, family friends, or other people in need, directly, not through an organization? [INCLUDES GIVING MONEY] [READ LIST]

1. A lot
2. Some
3. A little
4. None
5. DON'T KNOW [DO NOT READ]
6. REFUSED [DO NOT READ]

Y121: In the last year, have you been involved in any organization in which you yourself have planned an event, led a meeting, or given presentations or speeches?

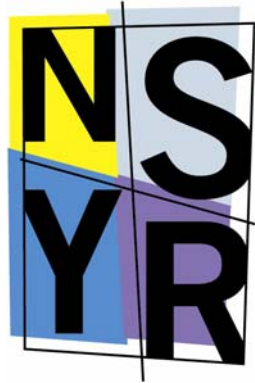
0. NO
1. YES
2. DON'T KNOW [DO NOT READ]
3. REFUSED [DO NOT READ]

[If teen has been involved in an organization in which they planned an event, led a meeting, or gave presentations or speeches]

[IF Y121=1]

Y122: Did you do these things in a religious organization, a non-religious organization, or both?

1. RELIGIOUS
2. NON-RELIGIOUS
3. BOTH
4. DON'T KNOW [DO NOT READ]
5. REFUSED [DO NOT READ]



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**Wave 2 Telephone Survey  
Instrument**

(07-24-06)

**National Study of Youth and Religion  
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**

**CB# 8120**

**Chapel Hill, NC 27516-2524**

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**SECTION H - Activities**

TEXT. “Now I want to find out how many organized activities such as groups, clubs, sports, or extracurricular activities you are involved in, and I would like to know how many are organized by a religious group and how many are not. Please think of all the organized activities you are involved with.”

- relact\_w2** TEXT: “How many of these activities are organized by a religious organization--not including regular worship services or youth group meetings?” [INCLUDE SCHOOL SPORTS TEAMS IF FOR A RELIGIOUS SCHOOL.]  
H:1. [RECORD NUMBER, RANGE = 0-100, 100=100 OR MORE]
- relacthrs\_w2** [IF TAKES PART IN ANY ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED BY A RELIGIOUS GROUP]  
[IF H:1>0]  
H:2. About how many hours per week, if any, do you spend in these activities organized by a religious group?  
[RECORD NUMBER OF HOURS, RANGE = 0-70, 70=70 OR MORE, ROUND UP TO NEAREST WHOLE NUMBER]
- notrelact\_w2** TEXT: “Now, how many other activities such as groups, clubs, or sports, not organized by a religious group, are you involved with?”  
H:3: [RECORD NUMBER, RANGE = 0-100, 100=100 OR MORE]
- notrelacthrs\_w2** [IF TAKES PART IN ANY ACTIVITIES NOT ORGANIZED BY A RELIGIOUS GROUP]  
[IF H:3>0]  
H:4: About how many hours per week, if any, do you spend in these other organized activities?  
[RECORD NUMBER OF HOURS, RANGE = 0-70, 70=70 OR MORE, ROUND UP TO NEAREST WHOLE NUMBER]
- armforces\_w2** [IF AGE >16 YEARS] [NOT INCLUDING THE MILITARY RESERVES]  
H:5. Are you now in the active armed forces?  
0. NO  
1. YES  
DK  
REF
- workhrs1\_w2** H:6. How many hours in a typical week are you currently working for pay [IF H:5=1, INSERT “, not including military service”]? [INCLUDE BABYSITTING JOBS] [RECORD NUMBER OF HOURS, RANGE = 0-100, 100=100 OR MORE, ROUND UP TO NEAREST WHOLE NUMBER]
- workhrs2\_w2** H:7. How many hours in a typical week were you working for pay [IF A:1=1 INSERT: “while you were in school”] in the Spring of 2005 [IF H:5=1, INSERT “, not including military service”]? [INCLUDE BABYSITTING JOBS] [RECORD NUMBER OF HOURS, RANGE = 0-100, 100=100 OR MORE, ROUND UP TO NEAREST WHOLE NUMBER]?
- given\_w2** H:8. In the last year, have you given any of your own money to any organizations

or causes, altogether totaling to more than \$20? [INCLUDES GIVING MONEY TO CHURCH]

- 0. NO
- 1. YES
- DK
- REF

**volunter\_w2**

H:11. In the last year, how much, if at all, have you done organized volunteer work or community service? Was it..

- 1. never,
- 2. a few times,
- 3. occasionally, or
- 4. regularly?
- DK
- REF

**volnum1\_w2**

[IF REGULARLY VOLUNTEERS]

[IF H:11=4]

H:12. About how many times in an average month do you do volunteer work or community service work? [RECORD NUMBER OF TIMES, RANGE = 0-70, 70=70 OR MORE]

**volnum2\_w2**

[IF OCCASIONALLY VOLUNTEERS]

[IF H:11=3]

H:13. About how many times in the last year did you do volunteer work or community service work? [RECORD NUMBER OF TIMES, RANGE = 0-80, 80=80 OR MORE]

**volrel\_w2**

[IF HAS VOLUNTEERED A FEW TIMES, OCCASIONALLY, OR REGULARLY]

[IF H:11=2,3 OR 4]

H:14. How much, if any, of this volunteer work or community service was organized by a religious organization or congregation? Was it..

- 1. all,
- 2. most,
- 3. about half,
- 4. some,
- 5. a little, or
- 6. none?
- DK
- REF

**voldiff\_w2**

[IF HAS VOLUNTEERED A FEW TIMES, OCCASIONALLY, OR REGULARLY]

[IF H:11=2,3 OR 4]

H:15. How much, if at all, did your volunteer or service activities bring you into direct contact with people of a different race, religion, or economic class? Was it..

- 1. a lot,
- 2. some,
- 3. a little, or
- 4. none?

DK  
REF

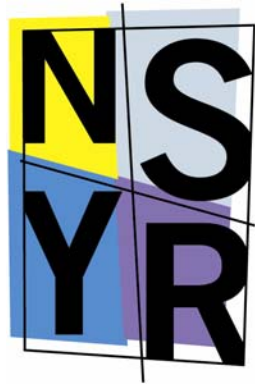
**volreq\_w2** [IF HAS VOLUNTEERED A FEW TIMES, OCCASIONALLY, OR  
REGULARLY]  
[IF H:11=2,3 OR 4]  
H:16. How much, if any, of this volunteer or community service work did  
you do because you were required to by a school, juvenile justice program,  
or by a parent? Was it...  
1. all of it,  
2. most,  
3. some, or  
4. none of it?  
DK  
REF

**helped\_w2** H:17. In the last year, how much, if at all, did you help homeless people, needy  
neighbors, family friends, or other people in need, directly, not through an  
organization? Was it... [INCLUDES GIVING MONEY]  
1. a lot,  
2. some,  
3. a little, or  
4. none?  
DK  
REF

**planned\_w2** H:18. In the last year, have you been involved in any organization in which you  
yourself have planned an event, led a meeting, or given presentations or speeches?  
0. NO  
1. YES  
DK  
REF

**plandrel\_w2** [IF HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN PLANNING EVENTS/MEETINGS]  
[IF H:18=1]  
H:19. Did you do these things in a religious organization, a non-religious  
organization, or both?  
1. RELIGIOUS  
2. NOT RELIGIOUS  
3. BOTH  
DK  
REF

<b>readbibl_w2</b>	<p>Q:4. How often, if ever, do you read from [SCRIPTURES C] to yourself alone? Is it:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. never,</li> <li>2. less than once a month,</li> <li>3. one to two times a month,</li> <li>4. about once a week,</li> <li>5. a few times a week,</li> <li>6. about once a day, or</li> <li>7. many times a day?</li> </ol> <p>DK REF</p>
<b>relretrt_w2</b>	<p>Q:6. In the last two years, how many, if any, religious youth retreats, conferences, rallies, or congresses have you participated in? [PROBE: "Just give me your best guess."] [RECORD NUMBER, RANGE = 0-50, RANGE 50=50 OR MORE]</p>
<b>mission_w2</b>	<p>Q:7. In the last two years, how many times, if any, have you gone on a religious missions team or religious service project? [PROBE: "Just give me your best guess."] [RECORD NUMBER, RANGE = 0-20, RANGE 20=20 OR MORE]</p>
<b>confbapt_w2</b>	<p>[IF CATHOLIC OR PROTESTANT AND HAD NOT BEEN BAPTIZED BY WAVE 1] [IF (CATHOLIC OR PROTESTANT) AND confbapt=0, 777, 888, 999] Q:8. Have you been confirmed or baptized as a public affirmation of your religious faith, not including infant baptism?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0. NO</li> <li>1. YES</li> </ol> <p>DK REF</p>
<b>barmitz_w2</b>	<p>[IF JEWISH AND HADN'T HAD A BAR/BAT MITZVAH BY WAVE 1] [IF JEWISH AND barmitz=0, 777, 888, 999] Q:9. Have you had a [IF teensex=0, INSERT "bar mitzvah"; IF teensex=1, INSERT "bat mitzvah"]?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0. NO</li> <li>1. YES</li> </ol> <p>DK REF</p>
<b>ritepass_w2</b>	<p>[IF NOT CATHOLIC, PROTESTANT OR JEWISH AND HADN'T DONE A RITE OF PASSAGE RITUAL BY WAVE 1] [IF NOT (CATHOLIC, PROTESTANT, OR JEWISH) AND ritepass= 0, 777, 888, 999] Q:10. Have you done any religious rite of passage or public affirmation of your religious faith?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0. NO</li> <li>1. YES</li> </ol> <p>DK REF</p>



**NATIONAL  
STUDY OF  
YOUTH &  
RELIGION**

# **Wave 3 Telephone Survey Instrument**

**National Study of Youth and Religion  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516-2524  
[www.youthandreligion.org](http://www.youthandreligion.org)**

**SECTION H - Activities**

TEXT. "Now I want to find out how many organized activities such as groups, clubs, sports, or extracurricular activities you are involved in, and I would like to know how many are organized by a religious group and how many are not. Please think of all the organized activities you are involved with."

<b>relact_w3</b>	<p>TEXT: "How many of these activities are organized by a religious organization--not including regular worship services or youth group meetings?" [INCLUDE SCHOOL SPORTS TEAMS IF FOR A RELIGIOUS SCHOOL.]</p> <p>H:1. [RECORD NUMBER, RANGE = 0-100, 100=100 OR MORE]</p>
<b>notrelact_w3</b>	<p>TEXT: "Now, how many other activities such as groups, clubs, or sports, <u>not</u> organized by a religious group, are you involved with?"</p> <p>H:3: [RECORD NUMBER, RANGE = 0-100, 100=100 OR MORE]</p>
<b>armforces_w3</b>	<p>[NOT INCLUDING THE MILITARY RESERVES]</p> <p>H:5. Are you now in the active armed forces?</p> <p>0. NO 1. YES DK REF</p>
<b>workhrs1_w3</b>	<p>H:6. How many hours in a typical week are you currently working for pay [IF H:5=1, INSERT ", including military service"]? [INCLUDE BABYSITTING JOBS] [RECORD NUMBER OF HOURS, RANGE = 0-100, 100=100 OR MORE, ROUND UP TO NEAREST WHOLE NUMBER]</p>
<b>nowork1_w3</b>	<p>[IF NOT WORKING FOR PAY]</p> <p>H:6a. Have you been actively looking for a job in the last 2 weeks?</p> <p>0. NO 1. YES DK REF</p>
<b>given_w3</b>	<p>H:8. In the last year, have you given any of your <u>own</u> money to any organizations or causes, altogether totaling to more than \$50? [INCLUDES GIVING MONEY TO CHURCH]</p> <p>0. NO 1. YES DK REF</p>
<b>volunter_w3</b>	<p>H:11. In the last year have you done any organized volunteer work or community service?</p> <p>0. NO 1. YES DK REF</p> <p>[IF HAS VOLUNTEERED]</p>

<b>volnum2_w3</b>	H:13. About how many <u>times</u> in the last year did you do volunteer work or community service work? [RECORD NUMBER OF TIMES, RANGE = 1-80, 80=80 OR MORE]
<b>volrel_w3</b>	[IF HAS VOLUNTEERED] H:14. How much, if any, of this volunteer work or community service was organized by a religious organization or congregation? Was it.. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. all,</li> <li>2. most,</li> <li>3. about half,</li> <li>4. some,</li> <li>5. a little, or</li> <li>6. none?</li> </ol> DK REF
<b>volreq_w3</b>	[IF HAS VOLUNTEERED] H:16. How much, if any, of this volunteer or community service work did you do because you were required to by a school, or because it was court ordered? Was it... <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. all of it,</li> <li>2. most,</li> <li>3. some, or</li> <li>4. none of it?</li> </ol> DK REF
<b>helped_w3</b>	H:17. In the last year, how much, if at all, did you help homeless people, needy neighbors, family friends, or other people in need, directly, not through an organization? Was it... [INCLUDES GIVING MONEY, PROVIDING ASSISTANCE, OR DONATING MATERIAL GOODS] <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. a lot,</li> <li>2. some,</li> <li>3. a little, or</li> <li>4. none?</li> </ol> DK REF
<b>socnet_w3</b>	H:18. Are you a member of any of the social networking web sites that allow you to communicate with others, such as Facebook or Myspace? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0. NO</li> <li>1. YES</li> </ol> DK REF
<b>socnet4_w3</b>	[IF A MEMBER OF A SOCIAL NETWORKING WEB GROUP] H:21. About how often do you visit social networking sites? Would you say... <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. several times a day,</li> <li>2. about once a day,</li> <li>3. three to five days a week,</li> <li>4. one to two days a week,</li> <li>5. every few weeks, or</li> <li>6. less than every few weeks?</li> </ol>

**Methodological Design and Procedures  
for the  
National Survey of Youth and Religion (NSYR)  
Personal Interviews**

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The second phase of the data collection of the National Study of Youth and Religion involved in-depth personal interviews with 267 teens. The purpose of the interviews was to provide extended follow-up discussions about teens' religious, spiritual, family, and social lives. The questionnaire followed closely and expanded upon the topics that were included on the NSYR telephone survey [see below for the Interview Questionnaire Guide]. Interviews were conducted in person and were digitally recorded.<sup>1</sup> They lasted an average of two hours each and ranged from about 1.5 to 3 hours long. Teens were given a \$30 cash incentive to complete the interviews. The majority of the in-person interviews were conducted between March 2003 and August 2003, with a final few completed as late as January 2004. All interview subjects were selected from among the 3,370 teens who completed the NSYR telephone survey. At the conclusion of that survey, teens were asked if we could contact them again in the future. More than 98 percent of the survey respondents agreed to be contacted again in the future.

The interviewees were selected from the telephone survey respondents using a stratified quota sample. Rather than a nationally representative sample, we wanted interviewed teens to represent a range of demographic and religious characteristics in order for us to be able to draw substantive conclusions about the variety of teen experiences in the U.S. Therefore, the interview sample was drawn taking into account the following demographic characteristics: region, urban/suburban/rural, age, sex, race, household income, religion and school type. We attempted to achieve a balance in each of the areas listed above. We also oversampled homeschooled teens and those who attend private school because these are relatively under-studied portions of the teen population, given that many surveys of teens are conducted in public school settings. The original telephone survey was conducted with teens between the ages of 13 and 17. The time lapse between a teen completing the telephone survey and completing a personal interview could range from 3 months to more than a year. Therefore, the personal interviews included teens between the ages of 13 and 18. The ages listed in the table below reflect the age of the teen at the time of the personal interview.

Seventeen different interviewers conducted interviews in 45 U.S. states, each interviewer conducting between 10 and 20 interviews. Preliminary research and consultation with other youth scholars suggested the importance of matching whenever possible interviewers and interviewees on race. The majority of the 267 NSYR interviews conducted were matched on gender and race. All of the black teens in the sample were interviewed by black interviewers.

Because of the sensitive nature of the interview questions asked of teens, prior to interview data collection, the NSYR obtained a Certificate of Confidentiality from the U.S. NICHD to protect the data from subpoena.

All 17 interviewers participated in a two-day training meeting. The training covered the logistics of the interview process, procedural requirements, IRB concerns, the protection of human participants, safety and liability concerns, a review and discussion of the interview questionnaire, keys to interview success and the proper use of the digital recording equipment. In addition to that training, all interviewers were required to obtain a Human Participants Training Certificate through the U.S. NIH website.

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<sup>1</sup> In three cases, the interview ran long and because of schedule constraints had to be completed over the phone. Two interviews were conducted over the phone in their entirety.

- \*What, if anything, do you think is valuable or important in religion?
  - Do you think other people who don't practice religious faith should? Why or Why not?
  - [IF yes] Why does that matter? Does it matter which religious faith?
- \* Do you ever have doubts about your (non-)religious beliefs? Which? Why? When?
- \* Are you involved in any religious youth group? Tell me a little about that.
  - How often do you attend? Where do you attend?
  - Do you enjoy it? What do you get out of it?
  - How important in your life is this youth group? What are some of the most important things about this youth group to you?
  - How, if at all, do you think your life would be different if you were not in this youth group?
- \* How different or similar do you feel from other teens your age because of your own (non-)religious faith and practices? Why?
  - Are you ever pressured or made fun of? Can you describe that?
- \* Tell me about the religious lives of your friends. Is this something you know much about?
  - Do your friends have the same religious beliefs and practices as you?
  - Do you go to the same religious services or youth groups?
  - Do you discuss religious things?
  - How would you compare yourself to them when it comes religion?
  - How much do you think religion influences their lives?
  - Do you see any differences between your religious and non-religious peers?

### **Religious Experience**

- \* Have you personally had any significant "religious experiences?"
  - What was it like? How did you feel about it?
  - Did that religious experience(s) change you in any way? How?
- \* Would you say that you feel close to God or not? In what ways or not?
  - What does it mean to you to feel close or not close to God?
  - What are some examples from your life of feeling this way?
- \* Have you ever experienced anything that seemed truly supernatural? A miracle? An experience of angels or demons? What did you think about that?
- \* Different people have different ideas about what they believe about things like angels, demons, divine miracles, life after death and so on. What do you think about these things?
  - Do you believe in them? Do you think they might be real? Why or why not?
  - What about things like astrology, communicating with the dead, reincarnation and psychics?
- \* Do you think that there is any kind of punishment after death for bad things people have done in life?

### **Religious Practices**

- \* [IF RELIGIOUS] Different kinds of religious and spiritual people "do" different kinds of things to express their faith. Are there any kinds of religious or spiritual things that you "do," any practices or habits or regular things that are part of your religious faith or beliefs?
  - Do you have habits or regular things you do to feel more connected to God?
  - Do you have habits or regular things you do to feel more connected to other [people of their religious faith, eg. Christians/Jews/etc]?

\* [IF RELIGIOUS] Are there any things you do because you are a [religion, eg, Christian/Jew/etc.] that are different from your friends or other people who are non-religious or of a different religion? I am thinking of things like maybe the way you may use music, take care of yourself, use your time and money, express yourself, relate to others; as well as things like worship, studying your faith, praying, fasting, giving money or service, etc.

\* [IF RELIGIOUS] Are there any things you DON'T do because you are a [religion]? Describe.

\* [IF NOT RELIGIOUS] Different people "do" different kinds of things to express spirituality or religious faith. Are there any kinds of that you "do," any practices or habits or regular things that you would consider to be religious or spiritual?

[USE THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO PROBE FURTHER ON THE THINGS MENTIONED ABOVE AND TO ASK ABOUT ANYTHING NOT MENTIONED ABOVE]

\* Do you pray?

- What do you think prayer is? How often do you pray (alone, w/family, etc.)? What kinds of things do you pray for? What do your prayers sound like? Are your prayers answered?
- How do you feel about praying?

\* Do you read the Bible [or other sacred text] regularly?

- Why or why not? Do you like that? How does that affect you?
- Any other religious stuff you read?

\* Do you try to take one day a week to rest, to worship, to take a break from normal routines?

- Describe. Why do you do this or not?
- How does that effect you?

\* Do you go to religious services regularly?

- How do you feel about that? Are there things you like or not like about it?
- What does attending services do for your faith?
- Why do you go (or not)? What influence do your parents have in whether or not you attend church?

\* Do you have a regular way to help others? Describe. Why or why don't you do this? (Motive?)

\* Do you stick up for people who aren't dealt with fairly? Describe. Why or why don't you do this? (Motive?)

\* Would you say you spend money or time any differently than other people because of your [religious, spiritual or] moral beliefs? Describe. (Motive?)

\* Do you take good care of yourself? Describe. Why or why don't you do this? (Motive?)

\* Do you try to take good care of the world around you? Describe. Why or why don't you do this? (Motive?)

\* Would you say you approach social problems or world events differently than other people because of your [religious, spiritual or] moral beliefs? Describe.

\* Are there any OTHER things you do on a regular basis that have some religious or spiritual meaning for you? What? Describe.

\* How important are your religious practices to you?

\* How, if at all, do these religious practices affect your life?

- What do they do for you?
- How do they influence how you think or live or believe or whatever?

\* How, if at all, have these practices or habits changed over time in your life? Why? To what effect?

\* *How has homeschooling affected your religious practices and how these affect your life?*

\* How hard would you say you have to work at your religious faith, or being the kind of religious person you want to be? Is it a struggle? Is it easy and natural?

- *[IF left school] Was it uncomfortable being a [religion] in school in any way?*
- \* *How are you doing in your subjects in homeschool?*
  - *How much do you care or not about doing well in your education? Why?*
  - *Do you think that your religious faith has anything to do with your feelings about learning and education How so? Examples?*
- \* *Do you think it is easier or more difficult to be a good [religion] when you are homeschooled?*
  - *Why or why not? In what ways?*
  - *Do you think that your education has a positive or negative effect on your own religious faith, or neither? How? Do you have examples?*
- \* *Do you make friends with other kids who are also homeschooled or kids in school? Why?*
  - *Is it easier or more difficult to make close friends because you are homeschooled? Or with kids in school? Why? How so?*
  - *Do you ever feel isolated? What do you think of that?*
- \* *Do you think it is easier or more difficult to be a teenager these days as a homeschooler? How so? Examples?*
- \* *Do you think homeschooling makes it easier or harder to stay out of trouble?*
  - *How about getting involved in volunteering for the local community? How so? Examples?*

**➔ IF NOT IN SCHOOL ONLY:**

- \* *Why did you stop going to school?*
  - *What would have had to have been different for you to have continued in school?*
  - *How much was school work and grades a factor? Or feeling like you didn't fit into school? Or the influence of friends?*
  - *[IF did not fit in] Did your religion have anything to do with not fitting into school or with not identifying with your school? How so?*
- \* *What did/does your family think about your not going to school?*
  - *[IF attends church] What about people in your [church]? Did anyone there have anything to say about your schooling?*
- \* *How do you feel about not going to school?*
  - *How has this affected your life? Has it been good or not?*
  - *Has it changed your religious life in any way?*
- \* *Do you think you might return to school?*
  - *What would it take to get you to do that? What would have to be different?*
  - *Do you think you would be more likely to go back to a religious school instead of a public school? Why or why not?*
- \* *How much do you care or not care about getting a good education?*
  - *[IF religious] Do you think your religious faith has anything to do with you feelings about education? How so?*

**Volunteering & Organized Activities**

- \* *Are you involved in any volunteer work or community service? (IF yes, ask to describe)*
  - *[IF volunteers] How did you get involved in that? What motivated you?*
  - *[IF volunteers] What effect on your life do you think your volunteering or community service has had? How has it affected you?*
  - *How has homeschooling affected your involvement in these things, if at all?*

- \* Do you think people have any obligation to help others or not? Why?
  - [IF indicate that helping is a good thing] Why is helping others a good thing?
  - Do you think teenagers should be involved in volunteer work or community service?
    - Why or why not? Why does it matter?
- \* Do you think your [religious faith or] moral beliefs have anything to do with how you think or act when it comes to volunteering and community service? In what ways?
- \* Besides volunteering, are you involved in any organized activities or programs or clubs or groups?
  - [IF yes] Which? Why? What do you get from that?
  - [IF not] Are there any particular reasons why you don't do more activities or have more group involvements?
- \* Do you work a paid job? How does that affect your life? (probe for effects on family, religious or social life)
  - What do you do with the money you earn?

## Dating

- \* Are you currently dating or going out with anyone?
- \* [IF dating] Tell me about your dating relationships? Who? How long?
  - What is relationship like?
  - What initially attracted you to them?
- \* [IF NOT dating] Have you ever dated anyone?
  - Are you interested in dating or going out with anyone now?
- \* Are there any particular things about dating that do or don't appeal to you?
  - What about dating appeals to you?
  - What about dating does not appeal to you?
- \* How do you define dating? What does that term mean to you?
- \* Why do you think teenagers today date? What do they want from such relationships? What do they get out of dating?
  - How is dating different from friendship? What do teens get from dating that they don't get from other friendships?
  - Is it expected among your peers that most teens your age should be dating? Do you feel you should be dating?
- \* Do you think dating is good thing or a problem for people your age, or both? Why? How?
- \* Some people find dating and romance to be really enjoyable, others end up feeling a lot of pressure and sometimes get very hurt in dating. What has your experience or observation of this been like?
  - [IF ever dated] What have been some of your best and worst experience or moments in dating?
  - What have you observed in the lives of your friends or other people you know?
- \* What about your friends? Do they date? Are their experiences with dating positive or negative or?
- \* Thinking about your own life and your friends and peers, do you think that people's religious faith affects their dating in any way? Does religion shape people's dating relationships?

## Sexuality

**Introduction:** Now I am going to ask you a few questions about physical involvements or sex with others that may seem a little sensitive. Please remember that:

- All of your answers are totally confidential
- You are free to not answer any question in this interview you don't want to.

**Methodological Design and Procedures for the  
National Study of Youth and Religion (NSYR)  
Personal Interviews – Wave 2**

The second phase of Wave 2 of the data collection of the National Study of Youth and Religion involved in-depth personal interviews with 122 teens. The purpose of the interviews was to provide extended follow-up discussion about teens' religious, spiritual, family, and social lives, especially in contrast to the responses they might have given in Wave 1. The questionnaire included much of that from Wave 1 with the addition of several new subjects of interest and the elimination of some sections that had not proved helpful in analysis. Interviews were conducted almost exclusively in person and were digitally recorded. They lasted an average of 107 minutes with a range of 43 to 237 minutes. Respondents were given a \$40 cash incentive to complete the interviews. The majority of the in-person interviews were conducted between June and September 2005 with several conducted during December 2005. All interview subjects were selected from the 267 teens who had given in-person interviews in Wave 1; additionally, all subjects were required to participate in the NSYR's phone survey before they could complete the in-person interview.

Our sampling strategy was to replicate the Wave 1 sample, which represented a range of demographic and religious characteristics and took into account region, urban/suburban/rural, age, sex, race, household income, religion, and school type. We clustered the respondents with whom we were still in contact into geographic areas for ease of travel in interviewing. The time lapse between a teen completing the Wave 2 telephone survey and completing a personal interview ranged from one day to four months. Therefore, for some, the Wave 2 personal interview came two years after the Wave 1 interview, while for others the interviews were nearly three years apart. Thus, the Wave 1 age range of thirteen to eighteen changed to fifteen to 21 with a mean age of nearly eighteen.

Sixteen different interviewers conducted interviews in 28 states, each interviewer conducting between three and seventeen interviews with a mean of seven. Twelve of the original interviewers returned for Wave 2, and respondents were matched with their original interviewers as much as possible. The majority of the 122 Wave 2 interviews were matched on gender and race, and all of the black respondents in the sample were interviewed by minority interviewers. Because of the sensitive nature of the interview questions asked of teens, prior to interview data collection, the NSYR renewed the Certificate of Confidentiality from the U.S. NICHD, obtained in Wave 1, to protect the data from subpoena.

All sixteen interviewers participated in a day-long training meeting. The training covered the logistics of the interview process, procedural requirements, IRB concerns, the protection of human participants, safety and liability concerns, a review and discussion of the interview questionnaire, keys to interview success and the proper use of the digital recording equipment. In addition to that training, all interviewers were required to obtain a Human Participants Training Certificate through the U.S. NIH website.

NATIONAL STUDY OF YOUTH AND RELIGION

- IF JEWISH: Do you consider yourself to be more culturally or religiously Jewish, or both? How so? How do you define “culturally” or “religiously”?
- What do you believe? What are your religious beliefs? [GIVE THEM TIME TO TRY TO EXPLAIN, DON'T RUSH INTO SPECIFIC PROMPTS]
  - Do you believe in God? IF YES: What is God like to you?
  - Do you believe in life after death? Heaven? Hell?
    - IF YES: What is afterlife/heaven/hell like? How do people get there?
- Do you attend religious services? Where? How often?
  - IF ATTENDS COLLEGE AWAY FROM HOME: Do you attend religious services when you are away at college? IF YES: Where and how did you locate that [church]?
- Are you involved in any youth group, college-age group, or other religious groups? Why? What does it mean to you?
- Do you pray? How often? What kinds of things do you pray for or about?
  - Do you have any examples of things you have prayed about lately? Did you feel like you got an answer? Do you ever? How so?
- Do you read the [Bible]? How often? Why? How, if at all, does it affect you?
- What other kinds of religious/spiritual practices/activities (at home, [church], anywhere) do you participate in?
- How much would you say religion is a part of your everyday life? In what ways?
- How big of an impact would you say religion/spirituality has on your life?
- Do you think your religion is the basis for how you live your life, or not? In what ways?

\* Over the past couple of years, do you think you've become more religious, less religious, or stayed about the same? How so? What was behind the change? Was it a conscious change or not?

\* Would other people you've known well over the past couple of years (like friends or family) say you've changed religiously/spiritually (become more or less)? Why or why not? What would they have seen in you to make them think that?

- Has your religion or affiliation changed? IF YES: How so? Why?
- Have any of your beliefs changed? IF YES: How so? Why is that?
- Have you changed [churches] at all? Why?
- Has your level of attendance at religious services or groups gone up or down? IF YES: How so? Why?
- Has your involvement in any youth group, college age, or other religious groups gone up or down? IF YES: In what ways? Why?
- Do you pray more or less? IF YES: What brought about that change?
- Do you read the [Bible] more or less? IF YES: Why is that?
- Have you changed in the frequency or importance of any other religious practices? IF YES: In what ways? Why did that happen?
- Has religion become more or less of the basis for how you live your life? IF YES: How

so?

- \* IF CHANGES: How do you feel about these changes? Happy, sad, guilty, don't care?
- \* Have you had doubts about religion in the past two years? More or less than before?
  - IF YES: What kind of doubts? Where do they come from?
  - Did you resolve them? IF SO, how? Do you talk to people about them? Who?
- \* How hard or easy has it been to maintain your religious faith, or being the kind of religious person you want to be, over the past couple of years? In what ways?
  - Do you see it getting easier or more difficult in the future? How?
- \* What, if anything, would it take (or what could stop you) from believing in your religious faith?
- \* What have been the most important influences on your religion, faith, belief, or spirituality over the past two years? Events, experiences, people?
- \* IF INVOLVED IN A YOUTH OR COLLEGE AGE RELIGIOUS GROUP: Tell me about your [---] group.
  - What kind of group is it? Church, school, independent?
  - Why did you choose and stay involved in this particular group?
  - How often does the group meet? For what kinds of meetings/events? What usually takes place? Tell me about the last event—what happened?
  - How many people are involved?
  - Does the group have a leader?
    - Do you like him/her? What are his/her strengths/weaknesses?
  - How big a part of your life is this group to you? In what ways?
  - Do you enjoy it? What do you get out of it?
- \* Are there other religious groups you go to? What are they like?
- \* IF NOT INVOLVED IN GROUP: Are there religious groups you could be involved in? Have you ever been invited? Why haven't you chosen to get involved?
- \* Have you been to a religious summer camp, youth retreat, mission trip, service project or conference in the past couple of years?
  - Tell me about that experience. Did that affect your life in any way? How?
- \* IF NOT RELIGIOUS AT ALL AND NEVER ATTENDS: In the past 2 years has anyone invited you to attend religious services or a religious group? Did you go? Why or why not? How was it?

\* IF IN SCHOOL OR COLLEGE: IF RELIGIOUS: Have you ever told other people at school about your faith, or encouraged them to join your [religion/religious faith], or come to [church] with you?

- IF YES: What was your experience doing that?
- Do you think that school has a positive or negative effect on your [religious faith / beliefs about religion], or neither? In what ways?

### **VOLUNTEERING**

\* Have you done any volunteer work in the past couple of years? Why?

\* IF YES: More or less than in the years before that? What led to the increase/decrease?

\* Is any of the volunteer work you do required? IF YES: How much of it? By whom?

\* Do you think the volunteer work you do has an impact on your life? IF YES, In what ways?

### **ORGANIZED ACTIVITIES AND WORK**

\* What kinds of groups, clubs, sports teams have you been active in during the past couple of years?

- Have you been getting more or less active in these things?
- How has that affected your life?
- How many, if any, of these things are organized by a religious group?

\* Do you work a paid job? What do you do?

- Do you see this job as one you'll have for awhile or what are your plans work-wise?
- Overall, are you happy with your job, or not?
  - What do you like about your job and the place you work?
  - What do you wish you could change about your job and the place you work?
- How many hours per week are you working?
- Do you like the people you work with? What are they like? Do you have friends there?
- IF RELIGIOUS: Does religion impact your work life at all?
- IF RELIGIOUS: Do you ever share your religion/faith with people at work?
- IF RELIGIOUS: Does your work life impact how religious or religiously active you are?

### **ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS**

\* Over the past couple of years, what has been going on in your life in terms of dating or romantic relationships?

- Have you had any relationships?
- IF YES: How many?
  - Do you tend to have more long-term serious relationships or more short-term relationships?

**Methodological Design and Procedures for the NSYR Wave 3 Personal Interviews**

The third wave of in-person interviews for the National Study of Youth and Religion involved in-depth personal interviews with 230 of the third wave telephone survey respondents. The purpose of the interviews was to provide extended follow-up discussion about teens' religious, spiritual, family, and social lives. The questionnaire included much of that from Waves 1 and 2 with the addition of several new topics of interest. Interviews were conducted almost exclusively in person and were digitally recorded. They lasted an average of approximately 135 minutes, and ranged from 40 to 272 minutes long. Respondents were offered a \$75-\$100 cash incentive to complete the interviews. The in-person interviews were conducted between May and September 2008, begun approximately one month after the official close-out of the Wave 3 telephone survey. 151 of the interview subjects were selected from the 267 teens who had given in-person interviews in Wave 1 and an additional 79 were conducted with survey respondents who had never completed an in-person interview for the study. New in-person interview sample subjects were selected in order to refresh our sample and to check through the comparison of their answers with those of prior interviewees for the possible "contamination" or "training" of interview answers in the latter as a result of their experience of completing prior interviews. We did not detect significant differences between the two types of sample. To be eligible for the Wave 3 in-person interview, a subject was required to have participated in the NSYR's Wave 3 telephone survey.

Our sampling strategy for the 151 original in-person interview respondents was to replicate the Wave 1 sample, which represented a range of demographic and religious characteristics and took into account region, urban/suburban/rural, age, sex, race, household income, religion, and school type. The new in-person interview respondents were chosen by combinations of geographic region, religious type, race/ethnicity, and sex to balance out the original sample. We clustered the respondents with whom we were still in contact into geographic areas for ease of travel in interviewing. The time lapse between a respondent completing the Wave 3 telephone survey and completing a personal interview ranged from one month to 12 months. The age range for the respondents, when they completed the Wave 3 personal interviews, was between 18 and 24 years, with a mean age of 20.5 years.

Twelve interviewers conducted interviews in 35 states in all geographic regions (West, South, Northeast, and Midwest) of the United States, each interviewer conducting between six and 31 interviews. Five of the interviewers had conducted personal interviews for the NSYR in either Wave 1 or Wave 2, and respondents were matched with their Wave 1 or Wave 2 interviewers as much as possible. Before the fielding of the in-person interviews, six of the new interviewers took a semester-long course, taught by the Principle Investigator, on personal interviewing techniques and project-specific NSYR interview details. All new interviewers participated in a day-long training meeting, held by the NSYR Project Manager and the Project Principle Investigator. The training covered the logistics of the interview process, procedural requirements, IRB concerns, protection of human participants, safety and liability concerns, and keys to NSYR interview success. In addition to that training, all interviewers were required to obtain Human Participants Training Certification.

The twelve project interviewers were assigned to sets of specific geographic locations around the U.S. Each interviewer was provided with groups of Contact Sheets for respondents in their assigned geographic areas. The contact sheets included respondent name, respondent nickname (if known), parent name, address, phone number, respondent birth date, respondent gender, respondent race, household income, religious affiliation, and religious denomination or

Catholic? Do you think anything should change in the church? What/why?

- \* Do you attend religious services? Where? How often?
  - IF ATTENDS COLLEGE AWAY FROM HOME: Do you attend religious services when you are away at college? IF YES: Where and how did you locate that [church]?
  - Are you involved in any youth group, college-age group, or other religious groups? Why? What does it mean to you? IF IN COLLEGE, ESPECIALLY PROBE FOR AND ABOUT CAMPUS-BASED GROUPS
- \* Do you pray? How often? What kinds of things do you pray for or about?
  - Do you have any examples of things you have prayed about lately? Did you feel like you got an answer? Do you ever? How so?
  - Do you read the [Bible]? How often? Why? How, if at all, does it affect you?
- \* Are there other kinds of religious or spiritual practices or activities (at home, [church], anywhere) that you participate in?
  
- \* Can you tell me anything about your religious beliefs? What are some of the things you believe religiously? [GIVE THEM TIME TO EXPLAIN, DON'T RUSH INTO SPECIFIC PROMPTS]
  - Do you believe in God? IF YES: What is God like to you?
  - [IF CHRISTIAN:] Do you believe in Jesus? What about him? Who or what is Jesus?
  - Do you believe in life after death? Heaven? Hell?
    - IF YES: What is afterlife/heaven/hell like? How do people get there?
  
- \* How would you say your religion or faith shapes or influences your life? What specific ways?
  - How much would you say religion is a part of your everyday life? In what ways?
  - How big or minor of an impact would you say religion/spirituality has on your life?
  - Do you think your religious faith is the basis for how you live your life, or not? In what ways? IF NO: What would that look like if it was?

[IF INVOLVED IN A YOUTH GROUP IN W1 OR W2]

→ You were involved in a religious youth group in middle school or high school, right? [YES] Okay, I'd like you to think back to the youth group you were involved with in middle school or high school, particularly during the time period in which youth group was most important to you, when you were the most involved, and I'd like to ask you a few questions about it.

- What were the main activities provided by your youth group then? Were most of the activities social and recreational, social service projects, mission trips, Bible study, moral teachings, or what?
- What was your favorite thing about participating in the group? [PROBE] What did you look forward to or get most involved in?
- To the best of your ability to remember, what do you think was the main purpose or goal(s) of your youth group?
- What do you think the leaders of your youth group were primarily trying to accomplish?
  - If you had to pick one, which of the following would you say was the primary purpose of your youth group then?: to teach you skills and behaviors, give you a chance to interact with other teens, form a relationship to the youth minister, or

\* How do you feel about “mainstream religion” in the U.S.—the religion of the majority of people? Some people we talk to feel comfortable with institutional religion. Others feel distant or put-off by it. How do you feel?

\* Do you feel that religious faiths, organizations, traditions are relevant for people your age? Do they meet the needs of young adults? Why or why not?

\* Some people we talk with respect and admire religious leaders in this country. Others find them to be arrogant, angry, and judgmental. What do you think? How do you feel about this?

## **SCHOOL**

\* Now, let’s talk some about school and education. What’s the highest level of education you have completed? Are you in school at all now, or not?

### **IF IN SCHOOL**

\* What kind of school and/or level are you at?

\* What led you to pick this particular school/college?

\* How is school/college going? Do you enjoy it? What’s good/bad/hard/easy?

\* What is your major/minor? Leaning towards anything? What attracted you to this course of study?

#### **IF RELIGIOUS**

\* What has it been like to be [R’s religion] at college? *ELABORATE*

\* Do you think that school has a positive or negative effect on your [religious faith / beliefs about religion], or neither? In what ways?

### **IF NOT IN SCHOOL**

\* Do you see yourself going back for more education some day? For what kind of degree? When?

## **VOLUNTEERING**

\* Have you done any volunteer work in the past couple of years? Why [or Why not]?

\* IF YES: Why do you do volunteer work? What motivates you? Do you volunteer more or less than in the years before that? Why?

\* Is any of the volunteer work you do required? IF YES: How much of it? By whom?

\* Do you think the volunteer work you do has an impact on your life? IF YES, In what ways?

\* What about the idea of giving money away? Some people believe in generous voluntary financial giving and others do not necessarily. What is your own view about charitable or religious or other financial giving of money away? [probe why, why not, how, etc.]

\* Do you voluntarily give money to any organizations or charities? If so, how much? Why? What got you to do that?

## **POLITICS, POVERTY, POLICY**

\* What do you think or feel about our society and culture in general? Do you think it is a good society or one with major problems? Do you feel confident about where the U.S. is going or do you have worries or criticisms?

- \* What are the good things about U.S. society and culture? What do you value or appreciate?
- \* What are the bad things? What would you change?

\* How do you feel about politics in general? Are you a very “political” person? Do politics or world or national events interest you? Why or why not?

\* What would you say your own political position or view is, if any? Conservative? Liberal? Something else? What does that mean to you? Why are you that?

\* Are there any social or political issues that you especially care about? Which? Why those in particular? What do you think or feel about them? Why do you think or feel that?  
- Probe if needed: Are any of these issues of particular interest or concern to you?:  
poverty, race relations, climate change/global warming, AIDs in Africa, the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, terrorism, abortion, the death penalty?

\* Have you been involved in any political activism or protests or demonstrations in the last three years? What were they about? Why did you get involved? How did the experience affect you?

### **ORGANIZED ACTIVITIES**

- \* Have you been involved in any groups, clubs, sports teams or other organized activities during the past couple of years? Which?
  - What attracts you to these groups or activities? Why are you involved?
  - How do these fit into your overall life? Are they connected to other parts or are they their own things?

### **WORK**

\* Do you currently work for pay?

#### **IF CURRENTLY WORKS:**

- \* What do you do?
- \* How many hours a week do you work?
- \* Is this a permanent job and what you see yourself doing as a career?
- \* What is the job like? Do you enjoy it? Do you get satisfaction out of your work?
- \* What are the people you work for and with like?
- \* What do you like or not like about this job?
  - \* IF RELIGIOUS--Does your religious faith influence your work life?
  - \* IF RELIGIOUS--Do you ever share your religion or faith with people at work?
  - \* IF RELIGIOUS--Does your job influence, improve, or challenge your religious faith at all? How so?

#### **IF NOT WORKING, OR WORKING BUT NOT IN LONG TERM CAREER JOB:**

- \* What kind of career are you hoping to have? What kind of career goals do you have?
  - IF UNSURE: I know it's a ways off, but what kinds of things do you think about as things you would enjoy doing? Even if you think of lots of different things, but are unsure.

- What got you interested in that?
- Do you know much about what it takes to become a [---]? What kind of steps (education, training, etc.) are involved?
- Have you taken any of those steps yet? How far are you in the process?
- How much do you think about what your career plans/goals are?

### **CONSUMERISM & GENEROSITY**

\* What do you think about the general topic of shopping, buying, consuming material things, like clothes, cars, music, etc.? [*trying to get at consumerism and materialism w/out being leading*]

- Do you have any particular attitude or feeling about the buying and consumption of material things we do so much of in our culture?

\* Are there any limits to what people should possess? What are they? Why those?

\* Are there things that you feel you have to have to be happy?

\* What is your idea of a “good life” when it comes to the ideal kind of lifestyle you might have? What are your goals when it comes to buying, owning, and consuming in your life—or maybe living modestly or simply?

- Some people we talk to love to shop and buy things, want to own a lot of things in life; others are worried about the effects of mass consumption in people’s lives or society or the world. Do you have any particular views? [probe]

### **ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS**

[**Note: pay attention to cues in this section re hetero vs. same-sex orientation, but if you have no idea, say “girlfriends or boyfriends” or equivalent in following questions and see how the participant responds. If they object, “I’m not gay!,” say, “OK, we interview a lot of different people and don’t want to assume anything.”**]

[IF MARRIED, TAILOR THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO MAKE SENSE FOR THEIR SITUATIONS]

\* Over the past couple of years, what has been going on in your life in terms of dating or romantic relationships? Have you had any relationships?

\* IF YES: How many?

- Do you tend to have more long-term serious relationships or more short-term relationships? Why do you think that is?

\* IF NO: Have you not had any relationships because you don’t feel ready or because there just hasn’t been the opportunity yet? In what ways?

\* IF HAS BEEN INVOLVED: How has/ve your relationship/s gone over the past couple of years? A positive or negative part of life, or both? How so?

- Have you had any bad break-ups? What happened? Did things get resolved? [IF SO] How?

- What have you learned from your relationships and dating experiences in the past couple of years? Anything you would do differently?

\* Have the people you’ve been in relationships with been similar to you religiously? In what ways? Is/was that a particularly good or bad thing for the relationship?