

**PRRI/RNS Religion News Survey**  
**September 14 – 18, 2011**  
**N = 1,013**

Q.1 Which comes closer to your view?

- 57 Humans and other living things have evolved over time [OR]
- 38 Humans and other living things have existed in their present form since creation
- 1 Other (VOL.)
- 4 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
- 100 Total

**IF BELIEVE IN EVOLUTION (Q1=1), ASK [N=545]:**

Q.2a And do you think that...

- 53 Humans and other living things have evolved due to natural processes such as natural selection [OR]
- 38 A supreme being guided the evolution of living things for the purpose of creating humans and other life in the form it exists today
- 3 Other (VOL.)
- 6 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
- 100 Total

**IF DO NOT BELIEVE IN EVOLUTION (Q1=2), ASK [N=403]:**

Q.2b And do you think that humans and other living things were created within the last 10,000 years, or do you not believe this?

- 50 Yes, believe
- 39 No, do not believe
- 12 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
- 100 Total

**ASK ALL:**

Q.3 From what you've heard or read, do scientists generally agree that humans evolved over time, are scientists divided, or do scientists generally disagree that humans evolved over time?

51 Agree humans evolved  
 26 Divided  
 15 Disagree humans evolved  
 9 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)  
 100 Total

Q.4 From what you've read and heard, do you believe there is solid evidence that the average temperature on earth has been getting warmer over the past few decades, or not?

69 Yes  
 26 No  
 2 Mixed/some evidence (VOL.)  
 3 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)  
 100 Total

**IF "YES or MIXED" (Q4=1,3) ASK [N=710]:**

Q.5 Which statement comes closest to your view about the causes of climate change...[READ AND ROTATE]?

64 Climate change is caused mostly by human activity such as burning fossil fuels  
 32 Climate change is caused mostly by natural patterns in the earth's environment  
 4 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)  
 100 Total

**ASK ALL:**

Q.6 From what you've heard or read, do scientists generally agree that the earth is getting warmer because of human activity, are scientists divided, or do scientists generally disagree that the earth is getting warmer because of human activity?

40 Agree human activity  
 37 Divided  
 15 Disagree human activity  
 8 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)  
 100 Total

Q.7 Now I am going to read you some pairs of statements. As I read each pair, tell me whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own views, even if neither is exactly right. **[READ; ROTATE OPTIONS]**

a.

36	1 – God gave human beings the right to use animals, plants, and all the resources of the planet for human benefit
57	2 – God gave human beings the task of living responsibly with the animals, plants, and the resources of the planet, which are not just for human benefit
4	Both/Neither (VOL.)
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

b.

43	1 – Given our current economic problems, we cannot afford to deal with climate change right now.
50	2 – Dealing with climate change now will create new jobs and help avoid more serious economic problems in the future
4	Both/Neither (VOL.)
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.8 Thinking about candidates for President, please tell me whether their views on the following issues would make you more likely to vote for them, less likely to vote for them or whether it would not make a difference to your vote. First, if a candidate for President **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]**. Would this make you MORE likely to vote for them, LESS likely to vote for them, or would it not make a difference? What about if a candidate **[INSERT NEXT]**?

a. Does not believe climate change is caused by human activity

9	More likely
36	Less likely
54	Would not make a difference
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

b. Does not believe in evolution

13	More likely
32	Less likely
53	Would not make a difference
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

*Note: Numbers may not add to 100% due to rounding*

## Methodology

The survey was designed and conducted by Public Religion Research Institute. Results of the survey were based on bilingual (Spanish and English) RDD telephone interviews conducted between September 14, 2011 and September 18, 2011 by professional interviewers under the direction of Social Science Research Solutions (SSRS). Interviews were conducted among a random sample of 1,013 adults 18 years of age or older in the continental United States (301 respondents were interviewed on a cell phone).

The final sample was weighted to six different parameters—age, race, sex, geographic region, education and telephone usage<sup>1</sup>—to ensure reliable and accurate representation of the total adult population.

The margin of error for the survey is +/- 3.0 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence. In addition to sampling error, surveys may also be subject to error or bias due to question wording, context and order effects.

---

<sup>1</sup> Telephone usage refers to whether respondents have only a landline telephone, only a cell phone or both types and the frequency with which they use each type.