PRRI/AAR Religion, Values & Climate Change Survey
September18 – October 8, 2014
N = 3,022

Q.1 How much do you enjoy keeping up with the news and current events? **[READ IN ORDER]**

45	A lot
31	Some
16	Not too much
8	Not at all
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.2 And when it comes to the news, what topic would you say you are MOST interested in? **[READ; RANDOMIZE]**

30	Politics and government
17	International affairs
14	Sports
11	Science and technology
8	Arts, Entertainment and Fashion
6	Business
5	Religion
5	Other [SPECIFY—VOL.]
3	None/Not interested in news (VOL.)
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.3 How much attention do you pay to news reports about developments in science? **[READ IN ORDER]**

25	A lot
43	Some
21	Not too much
11	None at all
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.4 Where do you get most of your information about science and technology? **[READ; RANDOMIZE]**

2014	2012[1]	2010	2008	2006	
44	41	32	28	23	The Internet
31	35	38	41	39	Television programs
8	5	5	11	11	Newspapers
7	4	1	3	4	Friends and family members
6	7	10	11	10	Magazines
3	6	12	6	11	Other [VOL.—SPECIFY]
*	-	-	-	-	Don't follow news about science/technology (VOL.)
1	2	2	1	1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	100	100	100	100	Total

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1,513]:

Q.5 Now, as I read a list of issues, please tell me which you consider to be the MOST important issue facing the United States today? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

13	The budget deficit
22	Lack of jobs
10	Immigration reform
18	The increasing gap between rich and poor
9	Rising cost of education
17	Health care
5	Climate change
3	Other (VOL.)
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1,509]:

Q.6 What do you think is the MOST important environmental problem the current administration should focus on?

25	Climate change
29	Air, water, and soil pollution
11	Shrinking of wilderness areas and animal habitat
4	Endangered species
23	Water shortages and drought
9	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

[1] General Social Surveys 2006-2012.

ASK ALL:
On a different topic….
Q.7 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?

IF "YES or MIXED" (Q7=1,3) ASK [N=2,049]:
Q.8 Which statement comes closest to your view about the causes of climate change…**[READ AND ROTATE]**?

2014	2012[2]	2011[3]	
69	75	69	Yes
2	1	2	Mixed/some evidence (VOL.)
46	*47*	*45*	*Climate change is caused mostly by human activity such as burning fossil fuels*
20	*27*	*22*	*Climate change is caused mostly by natural patterns in the earth's environment*
4	*5*	*3*	*Don't know/Refused (VOL.)*
26	21	26	No
3	2	3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	100	100	Total

IF "DO NOT BELIEVE EARTH IS WARMING" (Q7=2) ASK [N=862]:
Q.9 In just a few words, what is the main reason you believe that the average temperature earth has NOT been getting warmer? **[OPEN END]**

33	Weather hasn't changed/Weather is getting colder
18	Temperature varies naturally
12	Insufficient proof/No scientific evidence/Conflicting evidence
5	News reports and data on global warming are flawed/propaganda
4	General personal observations and experience
2	God is in control
4	Other scientific explanation or evidence
11	No reason/Other explanation
11	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

[2] PRRI/RNS, Religion News Survey, December 2012
[3] PRRI/RNS, Religion News Survey, September 2011

ASK ALL:

Q.10 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?

2014	2011[4]	
48	40	Agree human activity
28	37	Divided
17	15	Disagree human activity
7	8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	100	Total

NO QUESTION 11

Q.12 Would you say that climate change is best described as a crisis, a major problem but not a crisis, a minor problem, or is it not a problem at all?

23	Crisis
36	Major problem
23	Minor problem
16	Not a problem at all
*	Not happening (VOL.)
2	Don't know/Refused
100	Total

Q.13 Thinking about some of the environmental problems facing the U.S. and the world today, do you believe that climate change is a major factor, a minor factor or not a factor responsible for causing…. **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]**? And what about **[INSERT]**? Is climate change a major factor, minor factor or not a factor in causing…

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1,513]:

a. More extreme storms and hurricanes

55	Major factor
25	Minor factor
16	Not a factor
1	Do not believe it is happening (VOL.)
4	Don't know/Refused
100	Total

[4] PRRI/RNS, Religion News Survey, September 2011

b. Erosion of coastlines and beaches

48	Major factor
30	Minor factor
16	Not a factor
1	Do not believe it is happening (VOL.)
4	Don't know/Refused
100	Total

c. Water shortages and major droughts

57	Major factor
25	Minor factor
14	Not a factor
*	Do not believe it is happening (VOL.)
3	Don't know/Refused
100	Total

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1,509]:
d. Conflicts and wars over scarce resources

40	Major factor
32	Minor factor
22	Not a factor
*	Do not believe it is happening (VOL.)
5	Don't know/Refused
100	Total

e. Food shortages and rising food prices

52	Major factor
27	Minor factor
17	Not a factor
1	Do not believe it is happening (VOL.)
3	Don't know/Refused
100	Total

f. More intense wild fires

51	Major factor
27	Minor factor
18	Not a factor
1	Do not believe it is happening (VOL.)
3	Don't know/Refused
100	Total

Q.14 To reduce the effects of climate change will we have to make major sacrifices or can technology solve the problem without requiring major sacrifices?

55	Have to make major sacrifices
32	Technology can solve
13	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.15 Do you think the solution to the climate change problem will primarily come from… **[READ; RANDOMIZE]**

41	Private businesses and the free market
42	Government policies
7	Both equally (VOL.)
5	Neither (VOL.)
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.16 How much harm, if at all, do you think climate change will cause the following people. First… **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE].** Would you say it will cause **[INSERT]** a great deal of harm, a moderate amount, only a little or none at all? What about **[INSERT NEXT]**?

a. You personally

24	A great deal
30	A moderate amount
23	Only a little
22	None at all
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

b. People in the United States

33	A great deal
35	A moderate amount
18	Only a little
12	None at all
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

c. People in poorer developing countries

54	A great deal
20	A moderate amount
10	Only a little
12	None at all
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

ASK ALL:
Now a few different questions...
RELIG. What is your present religion, if any? Are you Protestant, Roman Catholic, Mormon, Orthodox such as Greek or Russian Orthodox, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, atheist, agnostic, something else, or nothing in particular?

INTERVIEWER: IF R VOLUNTEERS "nothing in particular, none, no religion, etc." **BEFORE REACHING END OF LIST, PROMPT WITH:** And would you say that's atheist, agnostic, or just nothing in particular?**]**

35	Protestant (Baptist, Methodist, Non-denominational, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Episcopalian, Reformed, Church of Christ, Jehovah's Witness, etc.)
19	Roman Catholic (Catholic)
2	Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints/LDS)
*	Orthodox (Greek, Russian, or some other orthodox church)
2	Jewish (Judaism)
1	Muslim (Islam)
1	Buddhist
1	Hindu
3	Atheist (do not believe in God)
4	Agnostic (not sure if there is a God)
1	Something else [SPECIFY]
16	Nothing in particular
12	Christian (VOL.)
*	Unitarian (Universalist) (VOL.)
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

IF ATHEIST, AGNOSTIC, NOTHING IN PARTICULAR OR DK (RELIG=9,10,12,99), ASK (N=731):
JEWID Do you consider yourself to be Jewish for any reason?

3	Yes
92	No
*	Half or part (VOL.)
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

IF SOMETHING ELSE OR DK/REF (RELIG = 11, 99) ASK (N=189):
CHR. Do you think of yourself as a Christian or not?

IF R NAMED A NON-CHRISTIAN RELIGION IN PREVIOUS QUESTION (e.g. Native American, Wiccan, Pagan, etc.), DO NOT READ (ENTER "NO" CODE 2)

40	Yes
37	No
24	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

IF CHRISTIAN (RELIG=1-4, 13 OR CHR=1), ASK (N=2,136):
BORN Would you describe yourself as a "born-again" or evangelical Christian, or not?

50	Yes
46	No
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

ASK ALL:
ATTEND Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services... more than once a week, once a week, once or twice a month, a few times a year, seldom, or never?

14	More than once a week
23	Once a week
11	Once or twice a month
18	A few times a year
17	Seldom
14	Never
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.17 Which of the following comes closest to how you think about the place of religion in your life? **[READ IN ORDER]**

30	Religion is the most important thing in my life, OR
39	Religion is one among many important things in my life, OR
13	Religion is not as important as other things in my life, OR
15	Religion is not important in my life?
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.18 Which comes closest to your view? **[READ IN ORDER]**

[HOLY BOOK: If Christian or no religion (RELIG=1-4, 9, 10, 12, 13 OR CHR=1), insert "the Bible"; **If Jewish (RELIG=5), insert** "the Torah"**; If Muslim (RELIG=6), insert,** "the Koran"**; If other non-Christian affiliations (RELIG=7,8,14 OR (RELIG=11 AND CHR=2,9)), insert** "the Holy Scripture"; **IF DK/REF IN RELIGION (RELIG=99 AND CHR=2,9), insert** "the Bible"**]**

IF BELIEVE HOLY BOOK IS WORD OF GOD (Q.18=1), ASK:

Q.19 And would you say that **[READ IN ORDER]**

63	[Holy book] is the word of God, OR
35	*[Holy book] is to be taken literally, word for word, OR*
25	*Not everything in [Holy book] should be taken literally, word for word?*
1	*Other (VOL.)*
2	*Don't know/Refused (VOL.)*
29	[Holy book] is a book written by men and is not the word of God
3	Other (VOL.)
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.20 Which statement comes closest to your view of God: God is a person with whom people can have a relationship, God is an impersonal force, or I do not believe in God?

57	God is a person
28	God is an impersonal force
8	I do not believe in God
4	Both/Neither/Other (VOL.)
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.21 You may experience the following in your daily life, if so how often do you **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]?** Would you say every day, most days, once in a while, seldom or never?

a. Experience a connection to all of life

44	Every day
26	Most days
17	Once in a while
7	Seldom
3	Never
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

b. Feel deep inner peace or harmony

30	Every day
39	Most days
20	Once in a while
7	Seldom
3	Never
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

c. Feel a deep sense of wonder about the universe

30	Every day
23	Most days
31	Once in a while
9	Seldom
6	Never
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

d. Feel a deep connection with nature and the earth

38	Every day
26	Most days
24	Once in a while
7	Seldom
4	Never
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

IF ATTEND AT LEAST ONCE OR TWICE A MONTH (ATTEND<5), ASK [N=2,091]:

Q.22 Thinking about the place you attend religious services most often… How often, if at all, does your clergy leader speak out about the issue of climate change? **[READ IN ORDER]**

11	Often
25	Sometimes
29	Rarely
33	Never
2	Don't know/refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.23 And to the best of your knowledge, has your congregation or place of worship ever sponsored any events, educational programs, or group discussions on climate change?

23	Yes
69	No
8	Don't know/refused (VOL.)
100	

ASK ALL:

Q.24 Now as I read a few statements please tell me whether you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly disagree or completely disagree with each one. The first statement is **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]**. Next… **[INSERT NEXT]**.

a. God would not allow humans to destroy the earth

19	Completely Agree
20	Mostly agree
22	Mostly disagree
31	Completely disagree
2	Do not believe in God (VOL.)
7	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

b. Evolution is the best explanation for the origins of human life on earth

2014	2007[5]	
24	20	Completely Agree
29	28	Mostly agree
14	16	Mostly disagree
27	29	Completely disagree
5	7	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	100	Total

c. The U.S. government needs to do more to address the issue of climate change

2014	2012[6]	
34	34	Completely Agree
35	33	Mostly agree
15	15	Mostly disagree
14	16	Completely disagree
2	3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	100	Total

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1,513]:
d. The severity of recent natural disasters is evidence of global climate change

2014	2012[7]	2011[8]	
24	26	22	Completely Agree
38	37	36	Mostly agree
20	18	18	Mostly disagree
13	15	22	Completely disagree
4	4	3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	100	100	Total

e. The issue of climate change is getting more attention than it deserves

18	Completely Agree
25	Mostly agree
30	Mostly disagree
24	Completely disagree
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

[5] Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, Religious Landscape Survey, February 2008
[6] PRRI/RNS, Religion News Survey, December 2012
[7] Ibid.
[8] PRRI/RNS, Religion News Survey, March 2011

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1,509]:
f. The severity of recent natural disasters is evidence that we are in what the Bible calls "the end times."

2014	2012[9]	2011[10]	
23	19	21	Completely Agree
26	17	23	Mostly agree
18	18	20	Mostly disagree
29	41	32	Completely disagree
4	5	4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	100	100	Total

g. The issue of global warming is getting more attention than it deserves

21	Completely Agree
28	Mostly agree
27	Mostly disagree
23	Completely disagree
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1,513]:
Q.25 In general, do you think scientists are mostly respectful of religion and religious people or are they mostly disrespectful?

50	Respectful
36	Disrespectful
6	Neither (VOL.)
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1,509]:
Q.26 In general, do you think religious people are mostly trusting of science and scientists or are they mostly distrustful?

34	Trusting
54	Distrustful
4	Neither (VOL.)
9	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

[9] PRRI/RNS, Religion News Survey, December 2012
[10] PRRI/RNS, Religion News Survey, March 2011

ASK ALL:

Q.27 In your opinion, generally do you think…? **[READ RANDOMIZE]**

2014	2009[11]	
54	55	Science and religion are often in conflict
40	38	Science and religion are mostly compatible
5	7	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	100	Total

Q.28 Now thinking about your own religious beliefs, does science sometimes conflict with your own religious beliefs or doesn't it?

2014	2009[12]	
38	36	Yes, science conflicts with your own beliefs
59	61	No, science does not conflict with your own beliefs
3	3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	100	Total

Q.29 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.

2014	2012[13]	2011[14]	
35	38	36	God gave human beings the right to use animals, plants, and all the resources of the planet for human benefit
57	55	57	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
6	4	4	Both/Neither (VOL.)
-	1	-	Do not believe in God
3	2	3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	100	100	Total

[11] Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, General Public Science Survey, July 2009
[12] Ibid.
[13] PRRI/RNS, Religion News Survey, December 2012
[14] PRRI/RNS, Religion News Survey, September 2011

b.

30	Given our current economic problems, we cannot afford to deal with climate change right now
63	Dealing with climate change now will help avoid more serious economic problems in the future
1	Both (VOL.)
3	Neither (VOL.)
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.30 Now, I'd like to get your views on some issues that are being discussed in the country today. All in all, do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose **[INSERT FIRST ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**? What about **[INSERT NEXT ITEM]**?

REPEAT AS NECESSARY: Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose?

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1,513]:
a. Building the Keystone XL pipeline that would transport oil from Canada's oil sands region through the Midwest to refineries in Texas

21	Strongly favor
31	Favor
23	Oppose
14	Strongly oppose
11	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

b. Increasing federal funding for research on renewable energy such as wind, solar and hydrogen, even if it raises taxes

28	Strongly favor
36	Favor
19	Oppose
14	Strongly oppose
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

c. Stricter limits on the amount of carbon dioxide that power plants and other industrial facilities can release, even if it raises the prices of goods and services

23	Strongly favor
34	Favor
23	Oppose
15	Strongly oppose
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1,509]:
d. Requiring companies that produce fossil fuels, such as coal, oil and natural gas to pay a tax, even if it raises the cost of electricity

17	Strongly favor
30	Favor
29	Oppose
19	Strongly oppose
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

e. Stricter limits on the amount of carbon dioxide that vehicles produce, even if it raises the price of cars

25	Strongly favor
39	Favor
18	Oppose
14	Strongly oppose
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

f. Increased use of fracking, a drilling method that uses high-pressure water and chemicals to extract oil and natural gas from underground rock formations

13	Strongly favor
28	Favor
31	Oppose
20	Strongly oppose
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.31 Now, I'm going to read a list of things that some people say are important reasons for protecting the environment. Please tell me whether you think each value is extremely important, very important, somewhat important, not too important or not at all important to you as a reason for protecting the environment. The first value is… **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE].**

REPEAT AS NECESSARY: Is this value extremely important, very important, somewhat important, not too important or not at all important to you as a reason for protecting the environment?

a. Preventing human suffering and harm

47	Extremely important
38	Very Important
10	Somewhat important
2	Not too important
2	Not at all important
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

b. Living up to our responsibility to protect other species

37	Extremely important
38	Very Important
20	Somewhat important
3	Not too important
2	Not at all important
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

c. Respecting and taking care of the earth

48	Extremely important
40	Very Important
10	Somewhat important
1	Not too important
1	Not at all important
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

d. Living up to our responsibility to protect future generations

51	Extremely important
38	Very Important
9	Somewhat important
1	Not too important
1	Not at all important
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Survey Methodology

The survey was designed and conducted by Public Religion Research Institute and funded by the Ford Foundation and the Nathan Cummings Foundation. Results of the survey were based on bilingual (Spanish and English) RDD telephone interviews conducted between September 18, 2014, and October 8, 2014, by professional interviewers under the direction of SSRS. Interviews were conducted among a random sample of 3,022 adults 18 years of age or older living in the United States (1,502 respondents were interviewed on a cell phone). The selection of respondents within households was accomplished by randomly requesting to speak with the youngest adult male or female currently living in the household. The sample included a small oversample of Jewish households, which were prescreened for religious affiliation in SSRS's weekly RDD omnibus survey. A total of 66 Jewish respondents were identified as part of the oversample and included in the study.

Data collection is based on stratified, single-stage, random-digit-dialing (RDD) sample of landline telephone households and randomly generated cell phone numbers. The sample is designed to represent the total U.S. adult population and includes respondents from all 50 states, including Hawaii and Alaska. The landline and cell phone samples are provided by Marketing Systems.

The weighting is accomplished in two separate stages. The first stage of weighting corrects for different probabilities of selection associated with the number of adults in each household and each respondent's telephone usage patterns.[15] In the second stage, sample demographics are balanced to match target population parameters for gender, age, education, race and Hispanic ethnicity, region (U.S. Census definitions), population density and telephone usage. Additionally, to account for the oversample, Jewish respondents, who constitute 2.3% of the population in the national RDD sample, were weighted down so that the total weighted sample reflects the national estimate of 2.3%. The population density parameter was derived from Census 2010 data. The telephone usage parameter came from an analysis of the July-December 2013 National Health Interview Survey. All other weighting parameters are derived from an analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's March 2014 Current Population Survey.

The sample weighting is accomplished using an iterative proportional fitting (IFP) process that simultaneously balances the distributions of all variables. Weights were trimmed to prevent individual interviews from having too much influence on the final results. The use of these weights in statistical analysis ensures that the demographic characteristics of the sample closely approximate the demographic characteristics of the target populations.

The margin of error for the survey is +/- 2.8 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence. The design effect for the survey is 2.4. In addition to sampling error, surveys may also be subject to error or bias due to question wording, context and order effects.

[15] Telephone usage refers to whether respondents have only a landline telephone, only a cell phone or both types.