

2. What is the year of the earliest General Social Survey in the ARDA's archive?

Click on the name of the earliest General Social Survey. This will take you to a description of the study.

You will also see several tabs above the description. One of these is for "Search." Click on this tab.

Search for the keywords "believe" and "god." You may find more than one survey questions with those keywords, but find the question that asks "Which statement comes closest to expressing what you believe about God."

3. What is the number and name for this question? (Hint: These will be right above the question).

Click on the "Analyze Results" link below the question. This will take you to a page showing how people responded to this question.

4. What **percent** of people said they have "no doubts" about the existence of God?

5. Just out of curiosity, how do responses differ by gender, race, or other characteristics? Scroll down some to see some tables and describe the patterns you see.

Click on the name of the earliest General Social Survey in the ARDA's archive.

Click on the "Search" tab.

Search for "believe" and "God."

"Click on Analyze Results" below the question.

Alright, now let us take a look at the most recent General Social Survey. Repeat the steps above but find the **latest** survey. Search for “believe” and “god” and click on “Analyze Results.”

6. What **percent** of people in this recent General Social Survey said that they do not have any doubts about the existence of God?

7. Look back at what you found in Question 4 and compare this to Question 6. Is there a difference? If there is, do you think this change is meaningful?

Let us now tackle this issue from a different angle. Instead of looking at religious beliefs, now we will take a look at religious practice.

Click on “QuickStats” in the main menu across the top of the page.

You will see various categories of statistics. Under “Religious Behaviors,” click on “Religious Service Attendance.”

This will take you to the results from one of the latest surveys asking about religious service attendance. You will also see several “Tabs.” One of these is for “Over Time.” Click on this tab.

Click on “Data Archive” and “General Social Survey.”

Find the latest survey and search for the belief in God question.

Click on “Analyze Results.”

Click on “QuickStats” in the main menu.

Click on “Religious Service Attendance.”

Click on the “Over Time” tab.

8. Focus on the line for “Every week or nearly every week.” What changes have there been in the past thirty years? Compare this with the line for “Never” attending religious services. Discuss below...

Go back to the “QuickStats” menu and find the “Frequency of Prayer” page. Go to the “Over Time” page.

9. Describe any changes in the frequency of prayer over the years.

Explore the QuickStats menu some more and find another question that might be used to examine trends in religious belief or practice. Note that some questions may not have been asked in different years and therefore might not have an “Over Time” option.

10. What belief or practice did you choose?

Click on “QuickStats” and then “Frequency of Prayer.” Click on the “Over Time” tab.

