



PRRI 2011 Millennials, Religion & Gay and Lesbian Issues Survey
July 14 - July 30, 2011
N=3,000

ASK ALL:

Q.1 Generally speaking, do you think that things in this country are going in the right direction, or do you think things have gotten off on the wrong track?

21	Right Direction
71	Wrong Track
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.2 Over the NEXT two years do you think the economy will get better, get worse, or will it stay about the same?

27	Better
36	Worse
32	About the same
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.3 Thinking about some issues in the country today, do you think that **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]** is a critical issue facing the country, one among many important issues or not that important compared to other issues? What about **[INSERT; NEXT]**?

REPEAT AS NECESSARY: Is this a critical issue facing the country, one among many important issues or not that important compared to other issues?

a. Abortion

30	Critical issue
28	One among many
39	Not that important
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

b. Same-sex marriage

24	Critical issue
20	One among many
53	Not that important
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

c. Immigration

42	Critical issue
36	One among many
20	Not that important
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

d. The environment

41	Critical issue
39	One among many
20	Not that important
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1,500]:

ef1. The federal deficit

72	Critical issue
19	One among many
6	Not that important
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1,500]:

ff2. Unemployment

76	Critical issue
21	One among many
2	Not that important
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.4 Now I'm going to read you some pairs of statements that will help us understand how you feel about a number of things. 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. The first pair is **[READ; RANDOMIZE]**. The second pair is **[INSERT]**

a.

60	1—What makes America great is that it is open to change and new ways of doing things
35	2—What makes America great is that it protects traditional values and ways of doing things
1	Neither (VOL.)
2	Both equally (VOL.)
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

- b.
- | | |
|----------|---|
| 50 | 1—There are some things that are just wrong regardless of the situation |
| 47 | 2—What is wrong or right depends on the situation |
| * | Neither (VOL.) |
| 1 | Both equally (VOL.) |
| <u>2</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

Q.5 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; RANDOMIZE]**? What about **[NEXT ITEM]**?

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

- a. Allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry legally

18	Strongly favor
29	Favor
21	Oppose
26	Strongly oppose
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

- b. Allowing immigrants who came to the U.S. illegally to obtain citizenship if they join the military or complete four years of college

13	Strongly favor
36	Favor
25	Oppose
23	Strongly oppose
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

- c. Tougher laws and regulations to protect the environment even if it raises prices or costs jobs

17	Strongly favor
38	Favor
27	Oppose
14	Strongly oppose
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.6 Do you think abortion should be **[READ IN ORDER]**

18	Legal in all cases
34	Legal in most cases
29	Illegal in most cases
15	Illegal in all cases
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.7 Compared to your views five years ago, are your current views about the legality of abortion generally more supportive, more opposed, or have they not changed? *{AVS 2010}*

9	More supportive
11	More opposed
80	Have not changed
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.8 And all in all, do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose **[INSERT FIRST TIME; RANDOMIZE]**? What about **[NEXT ITEM]**?

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

a. Laws that would protect gay and lesbian people against job discrimination

30	Strongly favor
41	Favor
16	Oppose
11	Strongly oppose
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

b. Allowing gay and lesbian couples to enter into legal agreements with each other that would give them many of the same rights as married couples

26	Strongly favor
36	Favor
17	Oppose
18	Strongly oppose
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

c. Allowing gay and lesbian couples to adopt children

20	Strongly favor
33	Favor
22	Oppose
22	Strongly oppose
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

d. The death penalty for persons convicted of murder

31	Strongly favor
34	Favor
18	Oppose
12	Strongly oppose
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.9 Compared to your views five years ago, are your current views about the legality of same-sex marriage generally more supportive, more opposed, or have they not changed?

19	More Supportive
9	More Opposed
71	No Change
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.10 Thinking about your representative in Congress, 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 your representative **[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 your representative **[INSERT NEXT]**?

REPEAT IF NECESSARY: Would this make you MORE likely to vote for them, LESS likely to vote for them, or would it not make a difference?

a. Supported legalized abortion

20	More likely
36	Less likely
43	Would not make a difference
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

b. Supported same-sex marriage

22	More likely
33	Less likely
44	Would not make a difference
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.11 If President Obama expressed public support for same-sex marriage would you be more likely to vote for him in 2012, less likely to vote for him in 2012, or would it not make a difference to your vote?

16	More likely
31	Less likely
51	Would not make a difference
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Thinking about some trends in society...

Q.12 Please tell me if you think each of the following trends is generally a good thing for American society, a bad thing for American society or whether it doesn't make much difference. First ... **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]**. Is this a good thing for American society, a bad thing for American society or does it not make much difference? How about **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]**?

REPEAT IF NECESSARY: Is this a good thing for American society, a bad thing for American society or does it not make much difference?

a. More gay and lesbian people 'coming out' and letting people know they are gay or lesbian

34	Good thing
18	Bad thing
47	No difference
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

b. More gay and lesbian couples getting married

22	Good thing
37	Bad thing
40	No difference
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

c. More couples deciding to have children later in life

34	Good thing
12	Bad thing
52	No difference
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

d. Fewer people regularly attending religious services

17	Good thing
48	Bad thing
34	No difference
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

e. More companies providing health benefits to partners of gay and lesbian employees

50	Good thing
17	Bad thing
31	No difference
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

f. More churches allowing openly gay and lesbian people to become clergy

25	Good thing
38	Bad thing
33	No difference
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

g. More states placing restrictions on the availability of abortion

33	Good thing
43	Bad thing
23	No difference
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

h. Fewer American workers are members of unions

31	Good thing
30	Bad thing
36	No difference
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.13 Next, I'm going to read you a series of statements about personal behavior. Regardless of whether or not you think it should be legal, for each one, please tell me whether you personally believe that it is morally acceptable or morally wrong. First... **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]**? Is this morally acceptable, or morally wrong? Next...

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1,500]:

a. Sex between an unmarried man and woman

55	Morally acceptable
41	Morally wrong
1	Depends on the situation (VOL.)
*	Not a moral issue (VOL.)
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1,500]:

b. Sex between a young man and young woman under the age of 18

29	Morally acceptable
66	Morally wrong
2	Depends on the situation (VOL.)
1	Not a moral issue (VOL.)
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

ASK ALL:

c. Having an abortion

33	Morally acceptable
55	Morally wrong
8	Depends on the situation (VOL.)
*	Not a moral issue (VOL.)
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

d. Sending sexually explicit messages by email or text

18	Morally acceptable
76	Morally wrong
3	Depends on the situation (VOL.)
1	Not a moral issue (VOL.)
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

e. Sex between two adults of the same gender

39	Morally acceptable
56	Morally wrong
1	Depends on the situation (VOL.)
1	Not a moral issue (VOL.)
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.14 Now please tell me how comfortable you would be with a gay or lesbian person in the following roles in your community? First, if a gay or lesbian person worked as **[INSERT; RANDOMZE]** in your community. Would you be very comfortable, somewhat comfortable, not too comfortable or not at all comfortable? What about if a gay or lesbian person worked as **[INSERT NEXT]**?

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1,500]:

af1. A high school teacher

36	Very comfortable
27	Somewhat comfortable
16	Not too comfortable
18	Not at all comfortable
1	Depends (VOL.)
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

bf1. A judge

39	Very comfortable
31	Somewhat comfortable
12	Not too comfortable
14	Not at all comfortable
1	Depends (VOL.)
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1,500]:

cf2. An elementary school teacher

34	Very comfortable
27	Somewhat comfortable
13	Not too comfortable
23	Not at all comfortable
1	Depends (VOL.)
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

df2. A law enforcement officer

43	Very comfortable
32	Somewhat comfortable
10	Not too comfortable
12	Not at all comfortable
1	Depends (VOL.)
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

ASK ALL:

e. A clergy person

31	Very comfortable
25	Somewhat comfortable
14	Not too comfortable
27	Not at all comfortable
1	Depends (VOL.)
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

f. A doctor

41	Very comfortable
30	Somewhat comfortable
13	Not too comfortable
13	Not at all comfortable
1	Depends (VOL.)
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

g. An elected official

40	Very comfortable
31	Somewhat comfortable
13	Not too comfortable
12	Not at all comfortable
1	Depends (VOL.)
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

NO QUESTION 15

Q.16 In America today, do you think it is more socially acceptable to be in favor of same-sex marriage or to oppose same-sex marriage?

51	Favor same-sex marriage
43	Oppose same-sex marriage
1	Neither (VOL.)
1	Both (VOL.)
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.17 In your community, how difficult do you think it is to live openly as a gay or lesbian person?
[READ IN ORDER]

15	Very difficult
36	Somewhat difficult
26	Not too difficult
19	Not at all difficult
*	Depends (VOL.)
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.18 Now, as I read some statements, please tell me if you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly DISagree or completely disagree with each one. First... **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]**. Next...

READ FOR FIRST ITEM, THEN REPEAT AS NECESSARY: Do you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly DISagree or completely disagree?

a. Gay and lesbian people generally live their lives guided by good moral values

26	Completely agree
38	Mostly agree
16	Mostly disagree
13	Completely disagree
<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

b. Gay and lesbian relationships can be blessed by God

24	Completely agree
21	Mostly agree
14	Mostly disagree
33	Completely disagree
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

c. Gay and lesbian people can be as committed to God and their religion as anyone

44	Completely agree
30	Mostly agree
10	Mostly disagree
14	Completely disagree
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

d. Gay and lesbian relationships should be accepted by society

34	Completely agree
30	Mostly agree
15	Mostly disagree
19	Completely disagree
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.19 Do you think a gay or lesbian person's sexual orientation can be changed or cannot be changed?

34	Changed
57	Not changed
<u>9</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

ASK ALL:

Now a few different questions...

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?

13	More than once a week
22	Once a week
15	Once or twice a month
20	A few times a year
18	Seldom
12	Never
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.20 How important is religion in your life – the most important thing, very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

19	The most important thing
39	Very important
22	Somewhat important
11	Not too important
9	Not at all important
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.21 Which comes closest to your view? **[READ, IN ORDER]**

IF BELIEVE HOLY BOOK IS WORD OF GOD (Q.21=1), ASK:

Q.22 And would you say that **[READ, IN ORDER]**?

67	[Holy book] is the word of God, OR
34	<i>[Holy book] is to be taken literally, word for word, OR</i>
30	<i>Not everything in [Holy book] should be taken literally, word for word.</i>
3	<i>Other/Don't know/Refused (VOL.)</i>
28	[Holy book] is a book written by men and is not the word of God.
1	Other (VOL.)
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

IF ATTEND AT ONCE OR TWICE A MONTH (ATTEND<4), ASK [N=1,648]:

Q.23 As far as you know, are there gay and lesbian people who regularly attend your congregation?

32	Yes
42	No
<u>26</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

IF GAY & LESBIAN PEOPLE IN CONGREGATION (Q23 = 1), ASK [N=537]:

Q.24 In the official directory of your congregation are gay and lesbian couples listed together or are they listed separately?

28	Listed together
31	Listed separately
5	Do not have directory
3	No gay and lesbian couples in congregation (VOL.)
<u>33</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

ASK ALL:

Q.25 Overall, do you think that messages about homosexuality coming from America's places of worship are generally about accepting homosexuality, generally about discouraging homosexuality or do you think most places of worship do not talk about the issue?

6	Accepting homosexuality
37	Discouraging homosexuality
51	Do not talk about the issue
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.26 How much if at all, do you believe messages about the issue of homosexuality coming from places of worship contribute to higher rates of suicide among gay and lesbian youth?

23	A lot
40	A little
27	Not at all
<u>11</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

IF R HAS RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION (RELIG=1-8,11,13,14, OR CHR=1), ASK [N=2,438]:

Q.27 If the place of worship you usually attend decided to allow blessings of gay and lesbian couples, would you continue to attend that place of worship or would you look for another to attend?

61	Continue to attend
34	Look for another
1	Do not attend (VOL.)
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

IF CATHOLIC (RELIG=2), ASK [N=634]:

Q.28 Do you think the position of the Catholic Church on the issue of homosexuality is too conservative, too liberal, or is it about right?

46	Too conservative
6	Too liberal
43	About right
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

IF ATTEND AT ONCE OR TWICE A MONTH (ATTEND<4), ASK [N=1,648]:

Thinking again about your place of worship...

Q.29 Does the clergy at your place of worship ever speak about [INSERT; RANDOMIZE]? What about [INSERT]? Does the clergy at your place of worship ever speak about this, or not?

a. Welcoming gay and lesbian people in the church

29	Yes
66	No
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

b. Sexual immorality

70	Yes
28	No
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

c. The issue of Abortion

64	Yes
34	No
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

d. Poverty

87	Yes
12	No
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

e. The environment

59	Yes
39	No
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

ROTATE Q30 & Q31

ASK ALL:

Q.30 Do you personally believe that having an abortion is a sin, or not?

52	Yes
41	No
<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.31 Do you personally believe that sex between two adults of the same gender is a sin, or not?

50	Yes
46	No
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

IF BELIEVE IT IS A SIN OR DK (Q31=1,9), ASK [N=1,624]:

Q.32 How do you think your church should respond to gay and lesbian people in committed relationships in church?

68	Treat homosexuality as a sin, but welcome gay and lesbian couples in church
20	Treat homosexuality as a sin and not welcome gay and lesbian couples in church
2	Other (VOL.)
<u>9</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

NO QUESTION Q33

ASK ALL:

Q.34 Now, as I read some statements on a few different topics, please tell me if you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly DISagree or completely disagree with each one. (First/Next) [INSERT; RANDOMIZE].

READ FOR FIRST ITEM, THEN REPEAT AS NECESSARY: Do you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly DISagree or completely disagree?

a. Gay and lesbian people should be eligible for ordination as clergy with no special requirements

23	Completely agree
25	Mostly agree
19	Mostly disagree
30	Completely disagree
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

b. Religious groups are alienating young people by being too judgmental about gay and lesbian issues

23	Completely agree
31	Mostly agree
23	Mostly disagree
18	Completely disagree
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

c. Religious groups should hold their ground and oppose efforts to make homosexuality acceptable

22	Completely agree
21	Mostly agree
23	Mostly disagree
30	Completely disagree
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

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

Survey Methodology

The survey was designed and conducted by Public Religion Research Institute and funded by the Arcus Foundation. The independent findings and analysis in this report are the sole responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Arcus Foundation. Results of the survey were based on bilingual (Spanish and English) telephone interviews conducted between July 14, 2011 and July 30, 2011, by professional interviewers under the direction of Directions in Research. Interviews were conducted by telephone among a random sample of 3,000 adults 18 years of age or older in the continental United States (1,000 respondents were interviewed on a cell phone). The landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International and the final sample was weighted to ensure proper representativeness.

The weighting was accomplished in two stages. The first stage of weighting corrected for different probabilities of selection associated with the number of adults in each household and each respondent's telephone usage patterns.¹ In the second stage, sample demographics were balanced by form to match target population parameters for gender, age, education, race and Hispanic ethnicity, region (U.S. Census definitions), population density and telephone usage. The population density parameter was derived from Census 2000 data. The telephone usage parameter came from an analysis of the July-December 2010 National Health Interview Survey. All other weighting parameters were derived from an analysis of the Census Bureau's 2010 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) data.

The sample weighting was accomplished using Sample Balancing, a special iterative sample-weighting program 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 is +/- 2.0% for the general sample at the 95% confidence interval. In addition to sampling error, surveys may also be subject to error or bias due to question wording, context, and order effects.

¹ Telephone usage refers to whether respondents have only a landline telephone, only a cell phone or both types.