

Religious and Spiritual Beliefs and Health Care



December 2022

www.healthyagingpoll.org



Q1. How important are the following types of beliefs to you/in your life?

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	NA
a. Religious beliefs				
b. Spiritual beliefs				

If Q1a or Q1b = very important or somewhat important

Q2. How has the importance of your beliefs changed, if at all, as you have gotten older?

	Became more important	Stayed the same	Became less important
a. Religious beliefs			
b. Spiritual beliefs			



If Q1a or Q1b = very important or somewhat important

Q3. Do you feel part of a community or organization that shares your religious/spiritual beliefs?

1. Yes
2. No

If Q1a or Q1b = very important or somewhat important

Q4. Have your religious and/or spiritual beliefs ever influenced your health care decisions?

1. Yes
2. No

Q5. Thinking about beliefs, how much do you agree or disagree with these statements?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
a. If Q1a or Q1b = very important or somewhat important: I would like my health care providers to ask me about my religious or spiritual beliefs.				
b. If Q1a or Q1b = very important or somewhat important: I'm comfortable discussing my religious or spiritual beliefs with my health care providers.				
c. If Q1a or Q1b = very important or somewhat important: It's important that my health care providers have similar religious or spiritual beliefs as me.				
d. I prefer that my health care providers keep their religious or spiritual beliefs separate from their practice of health care.				
e. I'm reluctant to receive health care from a provider with religious or spiritual beliefs that differ from mine.				
f. It's important for me to know the religious or spiritual beliefs of my health care providers.				



If Q1a or Q1b = very important or somewhat important

Q6. Have you ever discussed your religious and/or spiritual beliefs with a health care provider? Select all that apply.

1. Yes, a primary care provider
2. Yes, a specialist
3. Yes, some other type of health care provider
4. No

Q7. How much do you think your health care providers can help with the following:

	A lot	Some	None
a. Finding deeper meaning in an experience of illness			
b. Finding hope amidst health challenges			
c. Finding/supporting religious or spiritual connections with a higher power/spiritual realm/spiritual beings			

Data Source and Methods

This National Poll on Healthy Aging report presents findings from a nationally representative household survey conducted exclusively by NORC at the University of Chicago for the University of Michigan’s Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation. National Poll on Healthy Aging surveys are conducted using NORC’s AmeriSpeak probability-based panel. This survey module was administered online and via phone between July 2022 to a randomly selected, stratified group of U.S. adults age 50–80 (n=2,163). The sample was subsequently weighted to reflect population figures from the U.S. Census Bureau. The completion rate was 75% among panel members contacted to participate. The margin of error is ±1 to 3 percentage points for questions asked of the full sample and higher among subgroups.

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