

CANADIAN OPINION ON THE CORONA VIRUS – N° 13: RELIGION AND COVID-19

ASSOCIATION FOR CANADIAN STUDIES (ACS)

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METHODOLOGY

- Web survey using computer-assisted Web interviewing (CAWI) technology.
- From April 3rd to April 5th, 2020
- 1,512 Canadians + immigrant booster sample of 504, 18 years or older, randomly recruited from LEO's online panel.
- Using data from the 2016 Census, results were weighted according to gender, age, mother tongue, region, education level and presence of children in the household in order to ensure a representative sample of the population.
- No margin of error can be associated with a non-probability sample (Web panel in this case). However for comparative purposes, a probability sample of 1,512 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.52\%$, 19 times out of 20.
- The research results presented here are in full compliance with the CRIC Public Opinion Research Standards and Disclosure Requirements.

RELIGIOSITY IS NOT A KEY DRIVER OF FEARING THE CORONAVIRUS, HOWEVER NON-RELIGIOUS FEMALES ARE MORE AFRAID FOR FAMILY MEMBERS

WEEK 3	Males			Females			GAP (Females - Males)		
	Total	Religious	Not Religious	Total	Religious	Not Religious	Total	Religious	Not Religious
% Somewhat or Very Afraid									
Are you personally afraid of contracting the COVID-19 (Coronavirus)?	62%	64%	60%	68%	70%	66%	6%	6%	6%
Are you afraid that someone in your immediate family will be contracting the COVID-19 (Coronavirus)?	72%	75%	70%	80%	81%	80%	8%	6%	10%
% Blown out of proportion									
Do you believe that the COVID-19 pandemic is a real threat or is it being blown out of proportion?	18%	22%	15%	11%	11%	10%	-7%	-10%	-5%

Respondents who believe that the COVID-19 pandemic is a real threat are more likely to have witnessed others not respecting the measures put in place to flatten the curve – 21% more likely than those who feel this is all being blown out of proportion.

RELIGIOUS PERSONS ARE HAVING MORE MEANINGFUL CONVERSATIONS WITH THEIR SPOUSE OR PARTNER, FEEL CLOSER AND ARE MORE SUPPORTIVE OF EACH OTHER

Thinking of your relationship with your spouse or partner since the start of the COVID19 pandemic, how much do you agree with each of the following statements? ... (% Totally or Somewhat Agree)	How important are your religious or spiritual beliefs to the way you live your life? Would you say they are...			
	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not at all important
We are having more meaningful conversations	64%	56%	45%	38%
We are arguing more	18%	21%	19%	10%
We feel closer	56%	53%	37%	33%
We are supporting each other well	86%	84%	76%	80%

However non-religious persons are actually the least likely to argue with their spouses or partners...

RELIGIOUS PERSONS ARE THE MOST OPTIMISTIC... THEY ARE MOST LIKELY TO BELIEVE THAT THE WORSE OF THE CRISIS IS BEHIND US

What statement best describes your personal opinion of the COVID-19 crisis for Canada?	How important are your religious or spiritual beliefs to the way you live your life? Would you say they are...			
	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not at all important
The worst of the crisis is behind us	7%	1%	1%	3%
We are in the worst period of the crisis now	21%	23%	29%	19%
The worst of the crisis is yet to come	59%	66%	65%	73%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	13%	10%	5%	5%

Non-religious individuals, on the other hand, have the most dire outlook for the future... 73% of them believe that the worse is yet to come compared to only 59% of religious persons.

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