

Religious Survey Ratios Explained

Religious Survey Ratio Scores

The American Beliefs Study is a national religious survey of American beliefs, preferences and practices conducted every four years.

To rank the statements, an assigned ratio measures the relationship between positive responses (“agree”, “is important”, “is a concern”, etc.) and negative responses (“disagree”, “is not important”, “is not a concern”, etc.). Central, neutral options “no opinion”, “not sure”, etc.) are excluded.

The ratio score formula is $(\text{Strongly Agree} + \text{Somewhat Agree}) / (\text{Somewhat Disagree} + \text{Strongly Disagree})$.

A nine-point scale identifies a descriptive label for each statement, with a ratio of 1.0 representing an even distribution of positive to negative responses. The higher the ratio, the more the positive responses outweigh the negative ones.

For example, a ratio of 2.0 (strong concern) means twice as many respondents answered in the positive as opposed to the negative. A ratio of 0.5 (somewhat weak concern) means twice as many respondents answered in the negative as opposed to the positive.

The survey's ratios can quickly help you identify statements of agreement, concern, etc. that are the most pertinent.

| Life Concern Value | Ratio Score |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Extremely Strong Concern | 8 or higher |
| Very Strong Concern | 4.0-7.9 |
| Strong Concern | 2.0-3.9 |
| Somewhat Strong Concern | 1.3-1.9 |
| Neutral Concern | 0.8-1.29 |
| Somewhat Weak Concern | 0.5-0.79 |
| Weak Concern | 0.3-0.49 |
| Very Weak Concern | 0.11-0.29 |
| Extremely Weak Concern | 0.1 or lower |