

Influence of Four Aspects of Religion on Students' Sociopolitical Attitudes

Aaron Silberman



Project Evolution

Influence of mass news media on political and social attitudes



Influence of religion on political and social attitudes



Influence of certain religious aspects on sociopolitical attitudes



Current Question

*How do certain aspects of religion
affect high school students'
sociopolitical attitudes?*



Background

- ❖ Young people tend to be more Democrat, more secular
- ❖ Belief in God root from which all other beliefs stem from
- ❖ Average religiosity declining since 2007



Religious Aspects Examined

- ❖ Belief in higher power
- ❖ Importance of religion
- ❖ Prayer frequency
- ❖ Religious service attendance



Sociopolitical Topics Examined

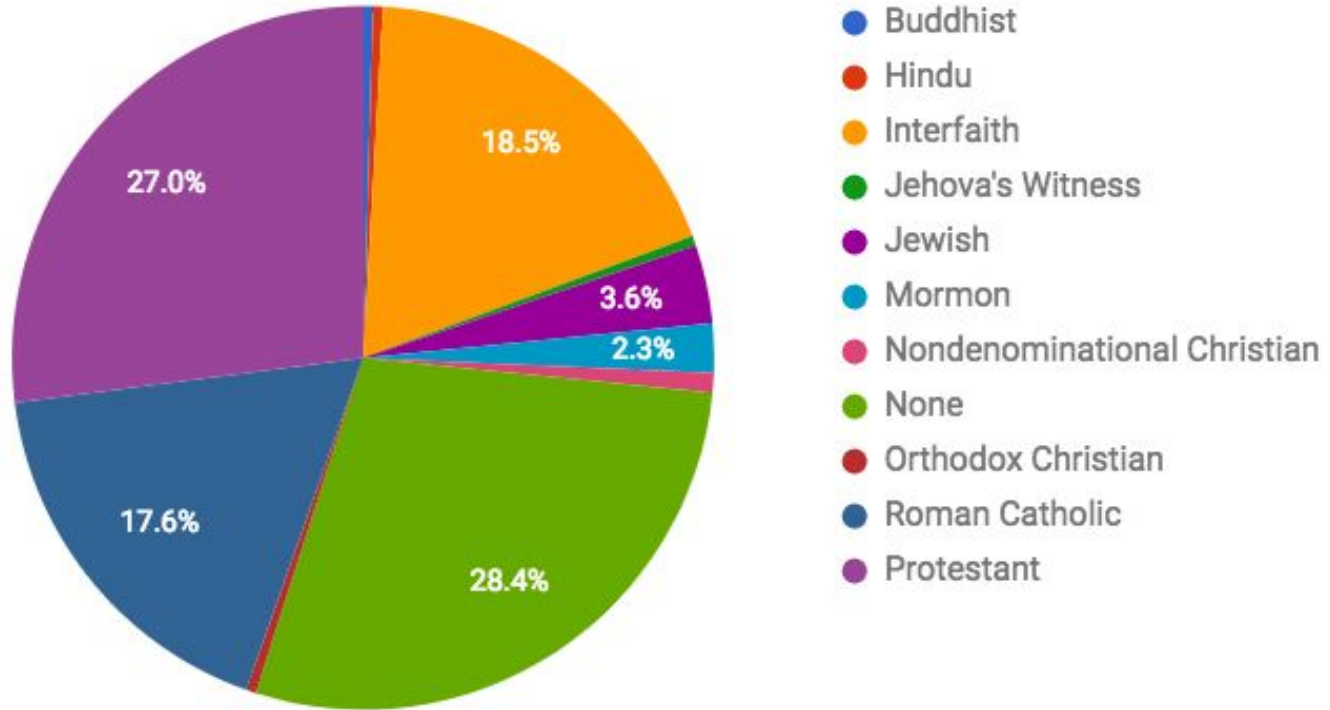
- ❖ Abortion
- ❖ Gun control
- ❖ Climate change
- ❖ Biggest issue facing USA



Methods

- ❖ Survey set up and breakdown
 - Demographic questions
 - Religion questions
 - Sociopolitical questions
- ❖ 222 students responded to the survey

Participants

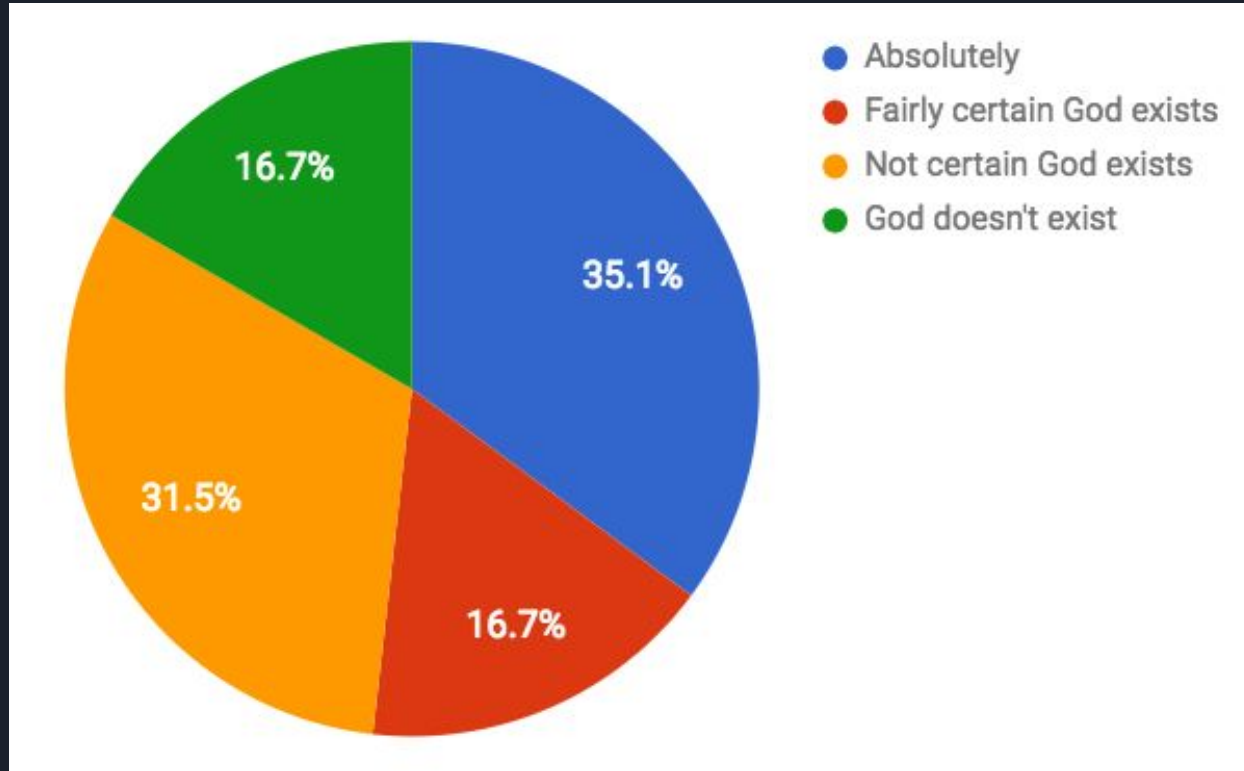




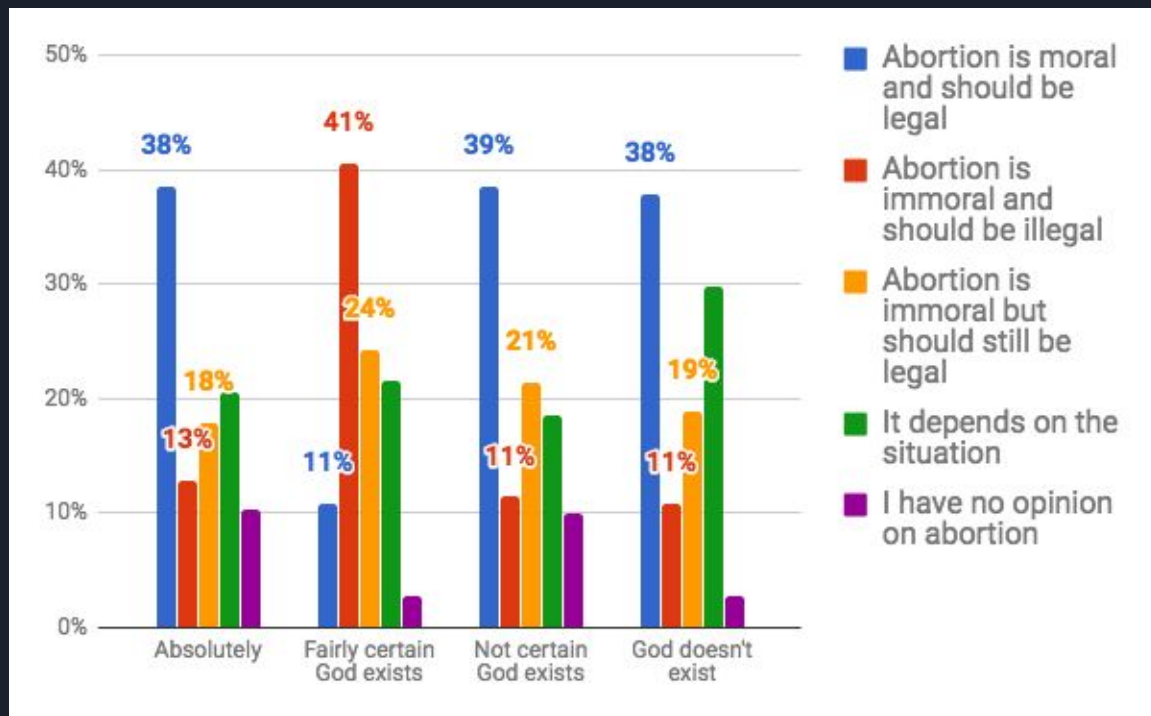
Results

- ❖ Do you believe in God/higher powers?
- ❖ How important is religion in your life?
- ❖ How often do you pray?
- ❖ How often do you attend religious services?
- ❖ What is your opinion of abortion?
- ❖ How strict should gun laws be?
- ❖ Do you believe Earth is experiencing climate change?
- ❖ What is the biggest issue facing America today?

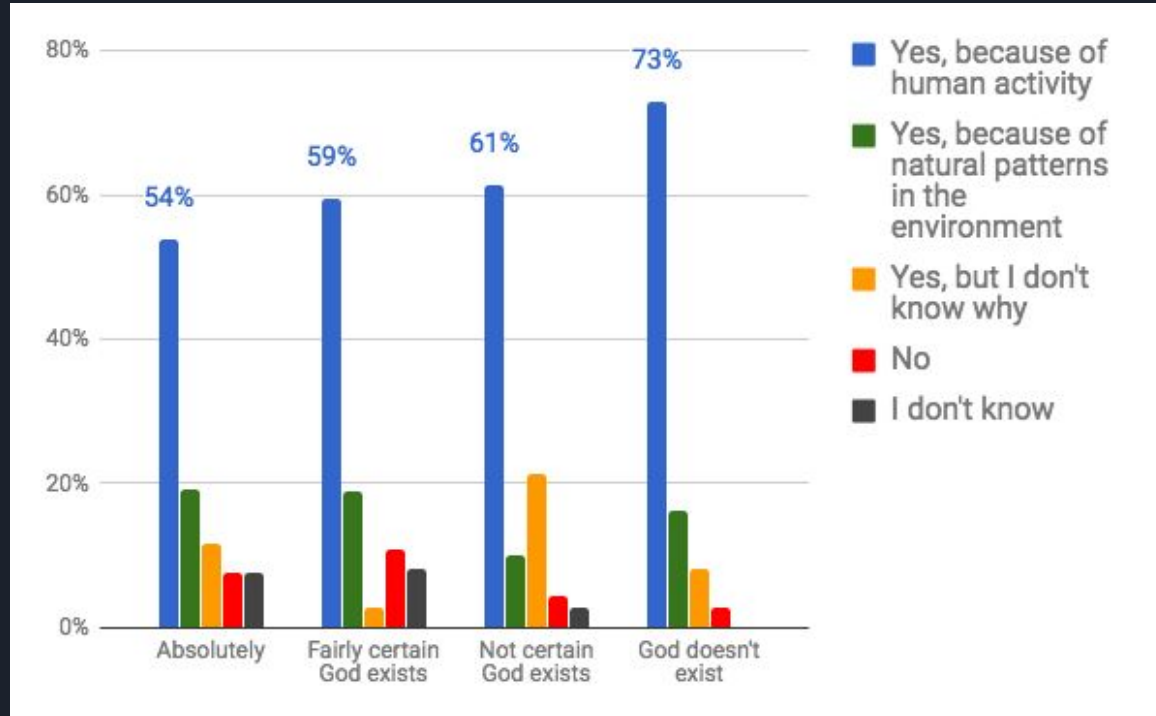
Belief in God/higher power(s)



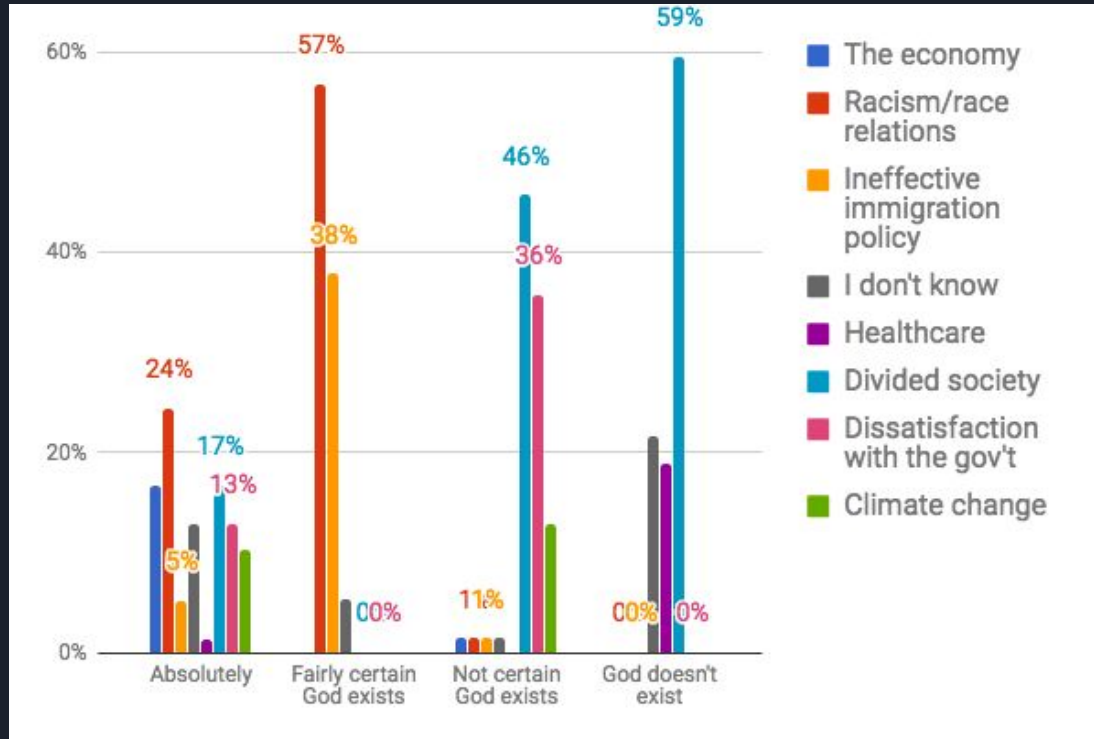
Belief in God correlated with opinions of abortion



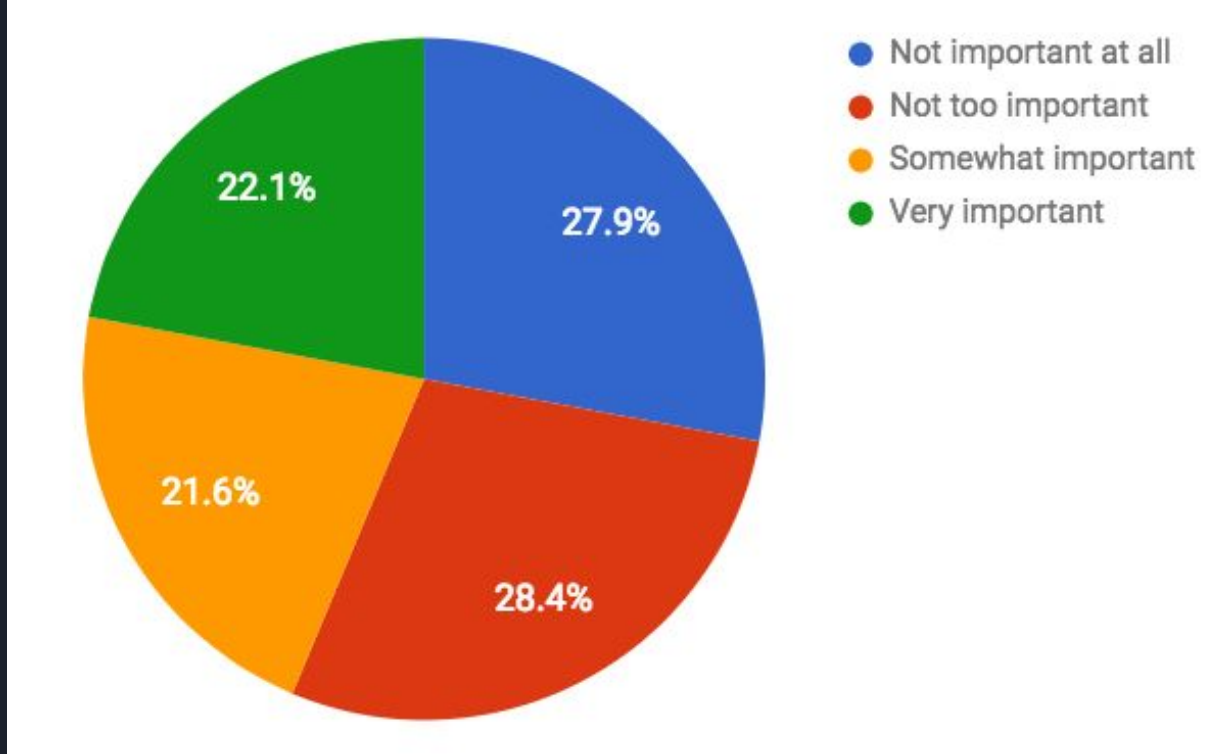
Belief in God correlated with opinions of climate change



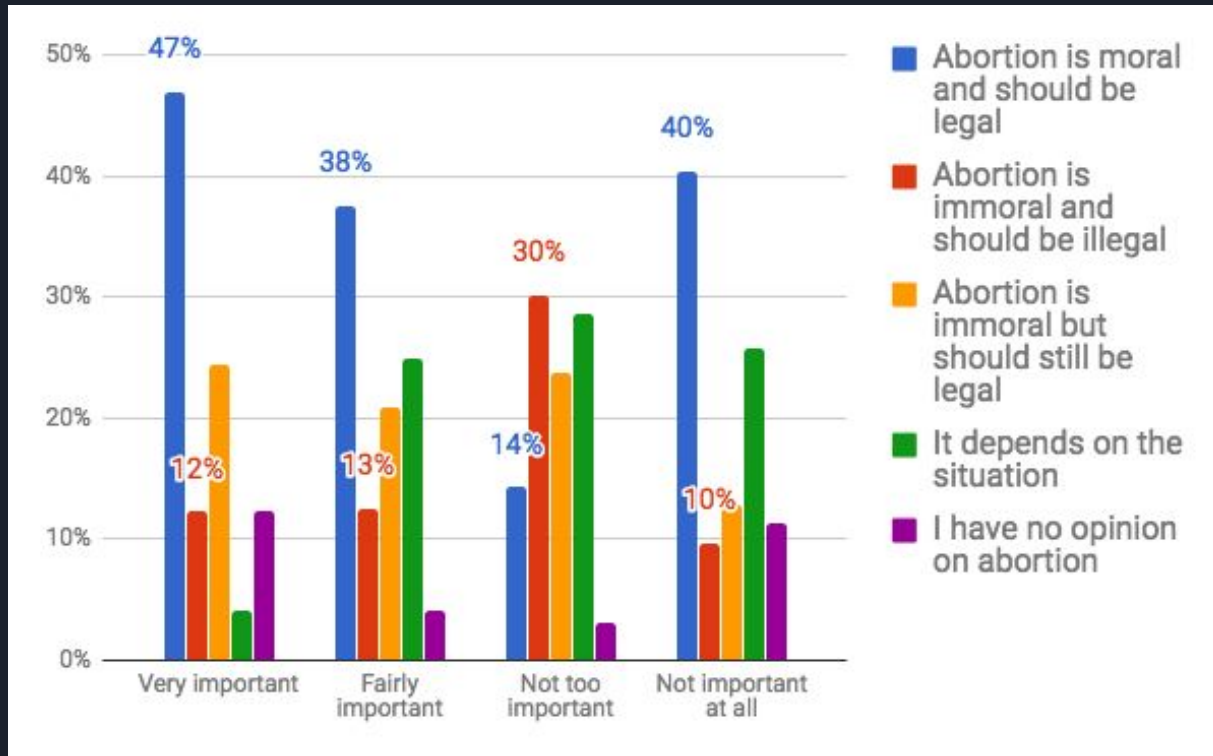
Belief in God correlated with opinions of biggest issue facing America today



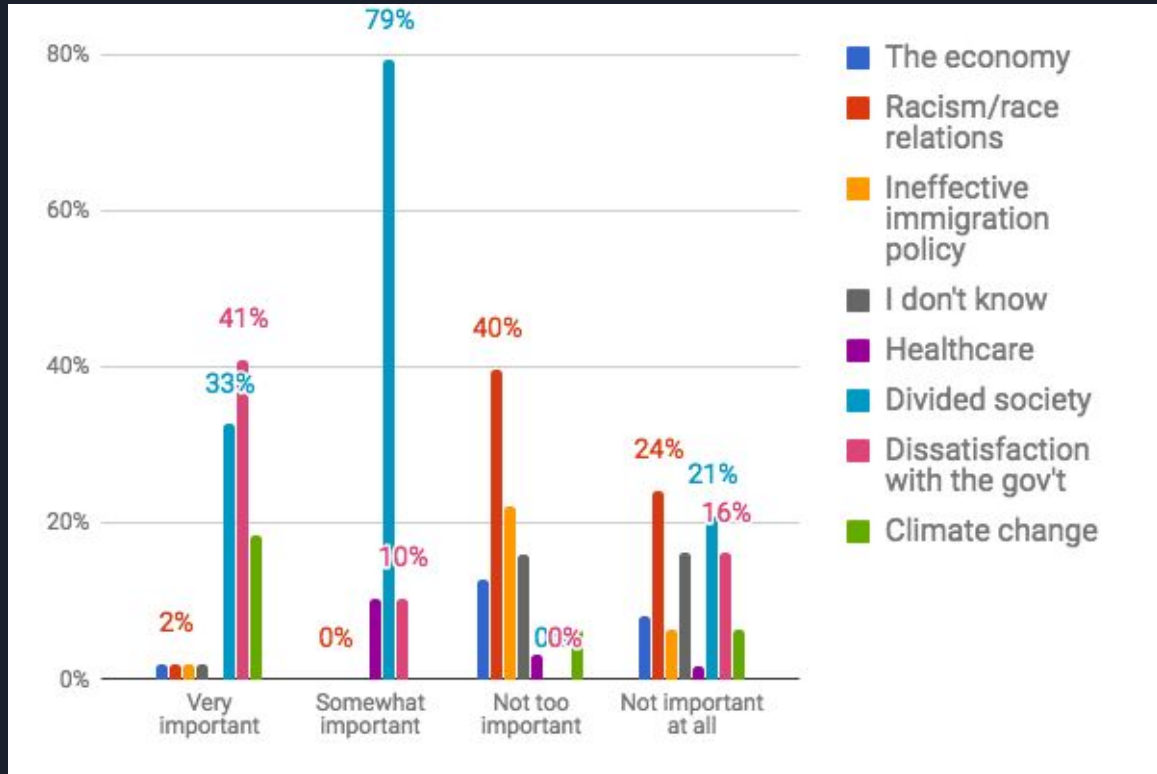
Importance of Religion



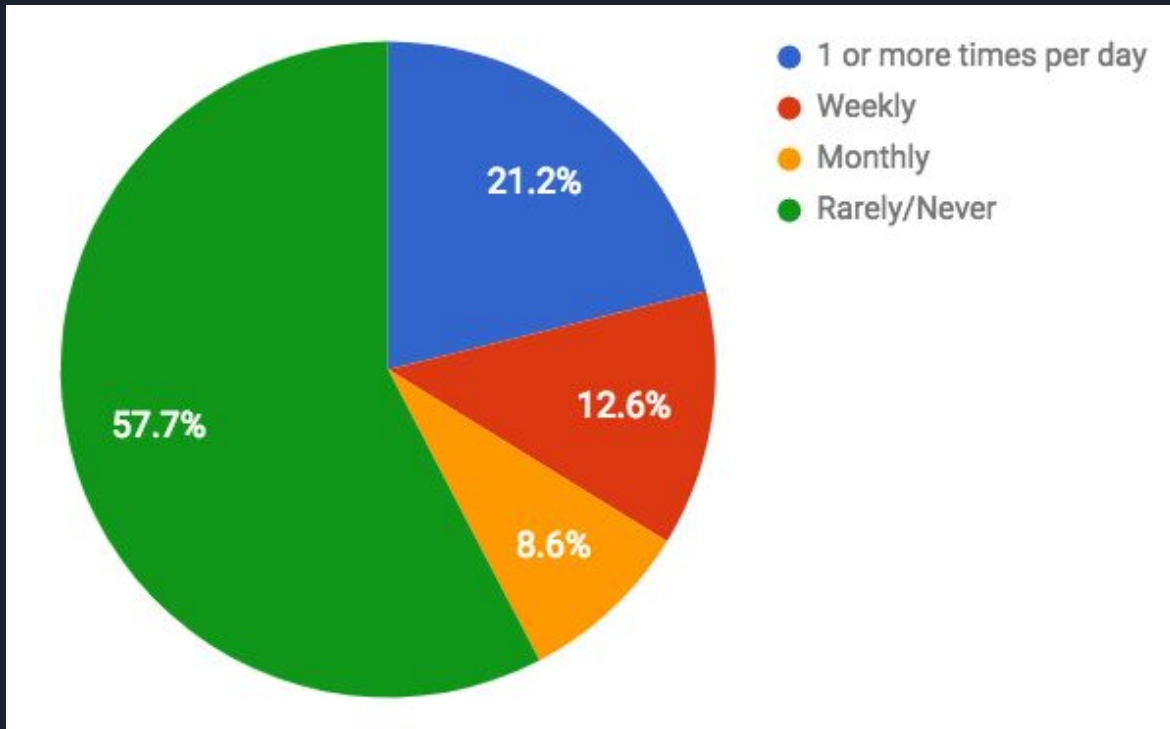
Importance of religion correlated with opinions of abortion



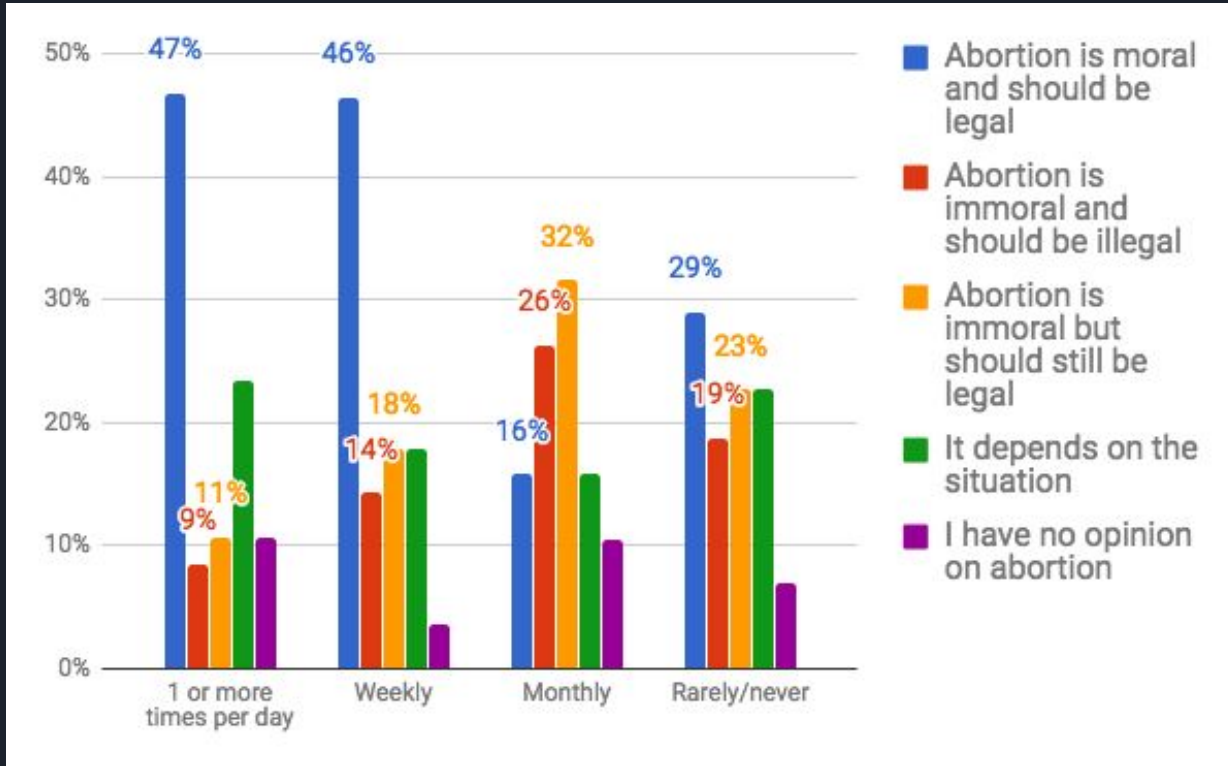
Importance of religion correlated with opinions of biggest issue facing America



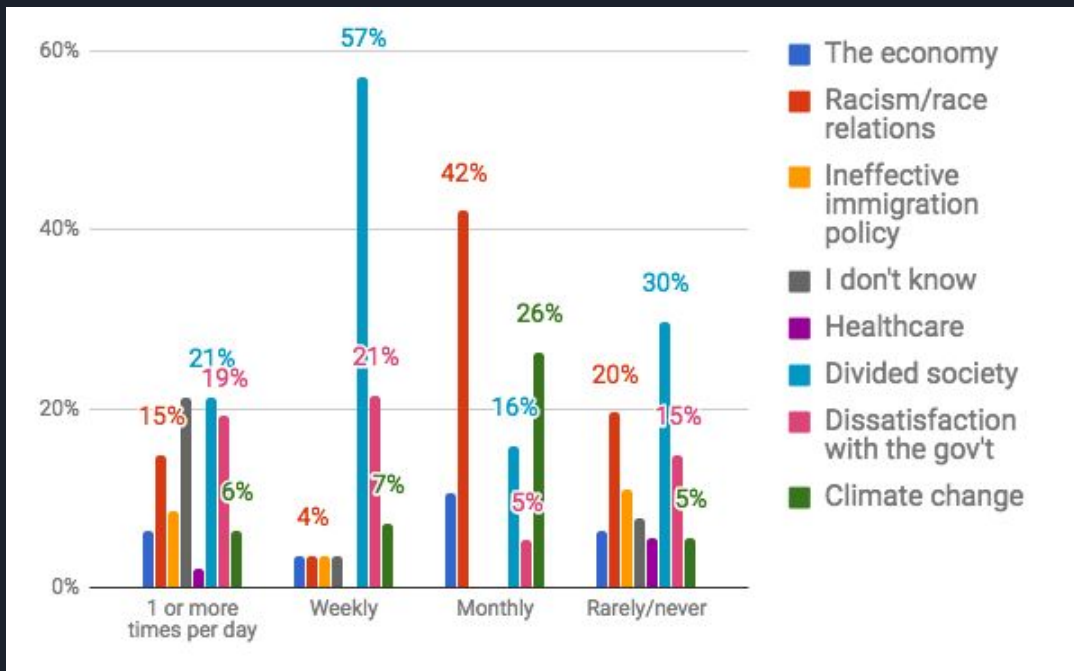
Prayer Frequency



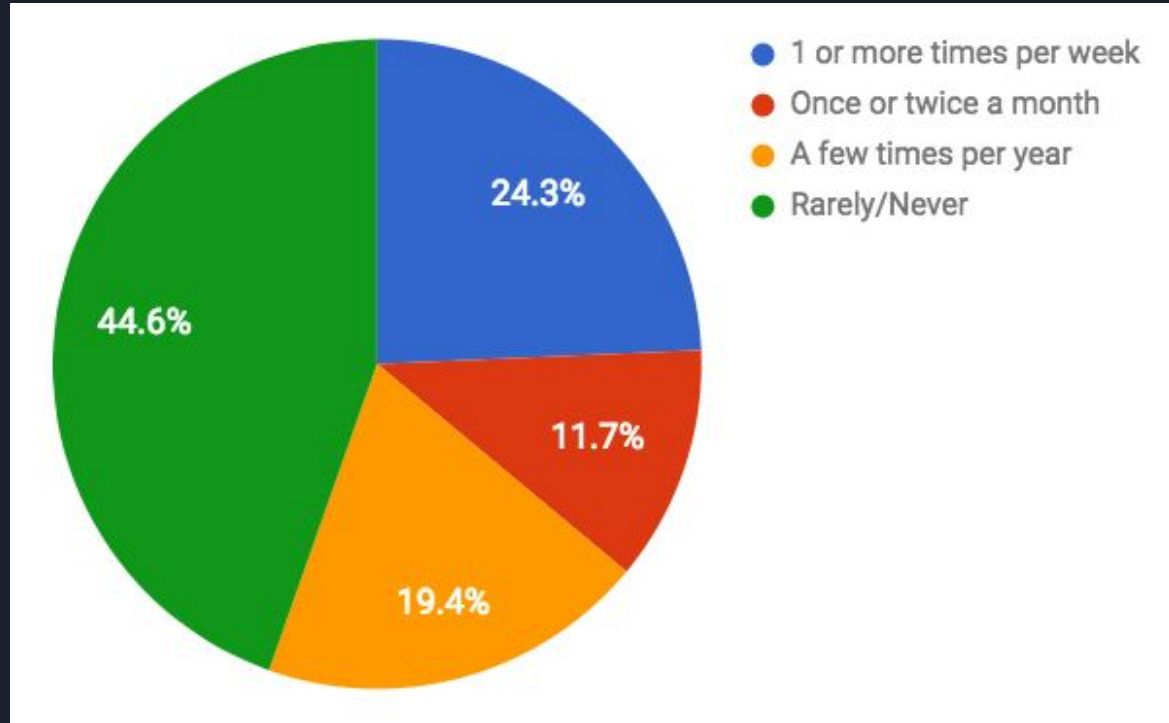
Prayer frequency correlated with opinions of abortion



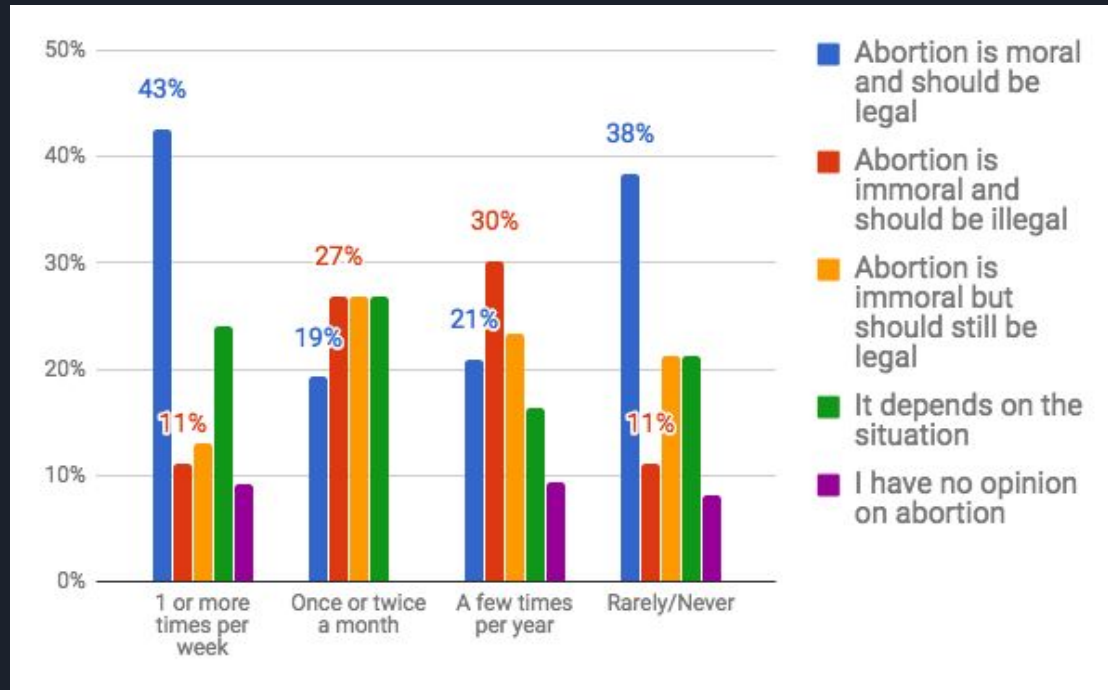
Prayer frequency correlated with opinions of biggest issue facing America today



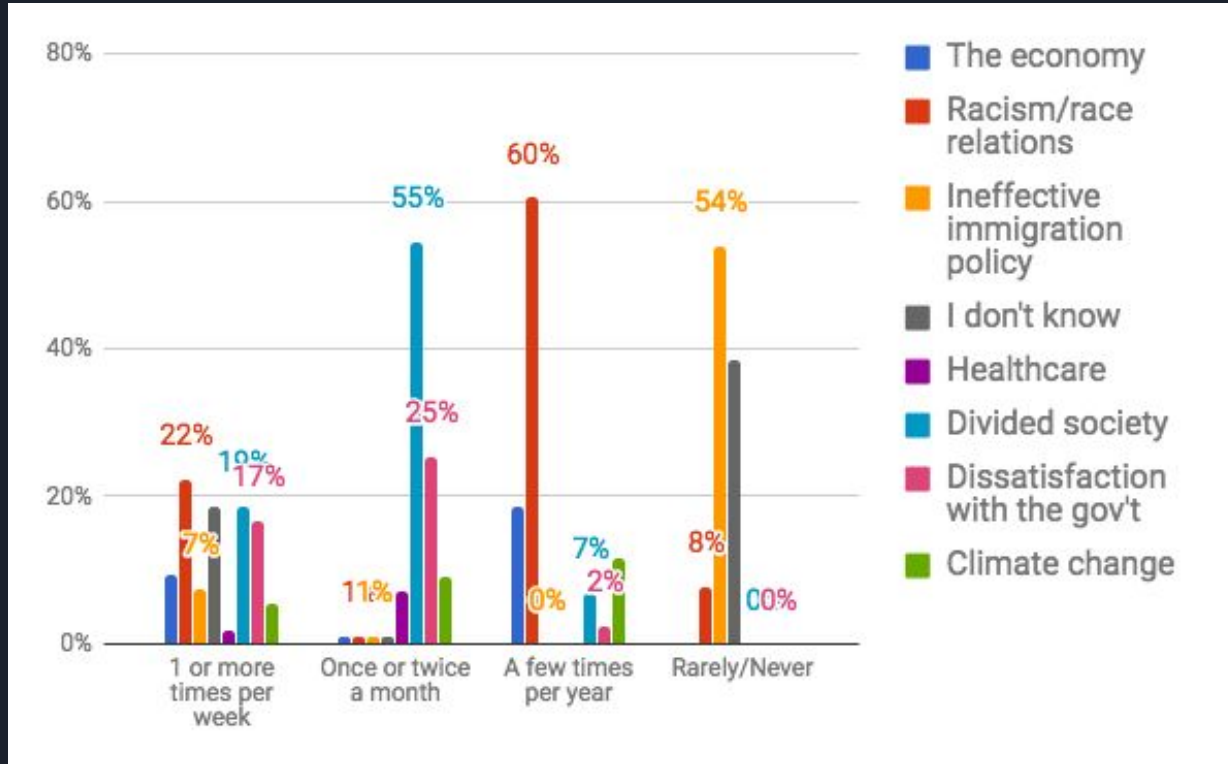
Religious Service Attendance



Service attendance correlated with opinions of abortion



Service attendance correlated with opinions of biggest issue facing America






Conclusions

- ❖ Students becoming more secular
- ❖ Students likely to agree with:
 - Abortion should be legal
 - Gun regulations should be stricter
 - Human-caused climate change
 - Divided society, racism are most prominent issues



Applications

- ❖ Upcoming 2018 midterms
- ❖ Insight into issues Gen Z will deal with and try to fix



Influence of Four Aspects of Religion on Students' Sociopolitical Attitudes

Aaron Silberman