



➤ How many young people did you survey or interview for this report?

We surveyed 10,516 individuals ages 13 to 25 and interviewed 165 young people in this same age range.

➤ How did you collect these surveys and conduct these interviews?

For the quantitative data in this report, we conducted six primary studies over the last year, beginning in September 2019. While the specific phenomenon of each study varied, all projects (with the exception of the Social Distance Study) contained a set of repeating, foundational questions to measure demographics, meaning and relationships, trust in people and institutions, loneliness and belonging, religious affiliation, and religious practices. We surveyed a nationally representative sample of 13-to-25-year-olds in the United States, totaling 10,516 participants. The sample was weighted for age, gender, race, and region to match the demographics of the country, and it produced a margin of error of +/- 3%.

For the qualitative research, we conducted in-depth interviews either in person, via telephone, or via video. Interviews focused on understanding the relationships that young people depend on when they are looking for belonging, making decisions about their future, developing their political lens, and establishing their value systems. Conversations were guided but open ended, allowing for as much direction as possible from the interviewee. Interviews were transcribed and then analyzed thematically.

› Who conducted the research?

The research was conducted and collected by the Springtide research team. Megan Bissel is the Head Researcher, with two associate researchers, Sean Zimny and Adrianna Smell. Dr. Josh Packard, Executive Director of Springtide, oversees the research team.

› Can I talk to any of the young people you interviewed?

All of the interview participants quoted in *The State of Religion & Young People 2020* are presented under pseudonyms. Some of our research participants indicated an openness to follow-up and others did not. Please email research@springtideresearch.org for more specific information.

› What was the most surprising data you found?

Affiliation doesn't mean what we think it means. For example, over 50% of young people who tell us they are affiliated with a particular religion also tell us they have little to no trust in institutional religion. Instead of focusing on affiliation or unaffiliation among young people, we discovered that relationships tell us more about young people's inner and outer lives. But we found that, as important as trusted adults ARE in the life of young people, very few young people have enough adult mentors. In fact, 27% have 1 or fewer adults in their life that they can turn to if they need to talk.

› What do leaders need to know about the state of young people and religion today?

That the social, religious, and cultural landscape is shifting in ways that directly impact how young people form bonds, find meaning, and discover their identities. Given these complexities—and the way they directly affect these core aspects of young people's religious lives—new frameworks are needed for building bonds of trust. Relational Authority is a data-driven approach that recognizes young people often need to feel they are cared about before they are receptive to advice, influence, or guidance from adults. Rooted in listening, integrity, transparency, care, and expertise, Relational Authority offers concrete practices so that those who care about young people can care better.



> Who can I talk to about this report?

Dr. Josh Packard, Executive Director of Springtide Research Institute, is available for comment, conversation, and interviews. He is a skilled researcher, writer, and speaker. Please reach out to Ellen Koneck at media@springtideresearch.org to schedule a time to chat with him.

This important study can be found on Springtide Research Institute's website: www.springtidresearch.org.

Springtide Research Institute is a sociological research institute listening to the inner and outer lives of young people ages 13 to 25. Amplifying young people's lived experiences through unbiased research and the generation of evidence-based actionable insights, we seek to help those who care about young people, care better.