

Daily Survey: Abuse Allegations in Churches

Sample 1000 U.S. Adult Citizens
 Conducted August 30 - September 4, 2022
 Margin of Error ±3.4%

1. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of...?

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Not sure
The Catholic Church	14%	24%	25%	22%	14%
The Southern Baptist Convention	10%	21%	19%	22%	29%
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Mormon Church)	7%	14%	24%	29%	26%

2. How much have you read or heard about allegations of church leaders covering up sexual abuse in...?

	A lot	A little	Nothing at all
The Catholic Church	56%	29%	15%
The Southern Baptist Convention	17%	36%	47%
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Mormon Church)	16%	39%	45%

3. How much of a problem do you think child sexual abuse is in each of the following churches?

	A very big problem	Somewhat of a problem	Not very much of a problem	Not a problem	Not sure
The Catholic Church	49%	24%	8%	4%	15%
The Southern Baptist Convention	22%	20%	15%	6%	37%
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Mormon Church)	26%	23%	11%	5%	35%

4. How confident are you in the ability of the following churches to address future child sexual-abuse allegations?

	Very confident	Somewhat confident	Not very confident	Not at all confident	Not sure
The Catholic Church	7%	19%	24%	32%	18%
The Southern Baptist Convention	8%	18%	19%	23%	32%
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Mormon Church)	7%	16%	18%	27%	31%

5. Would you support or oppose allowing women to be ordained ... ?

	Support	Oppose	Not sure
As Catholic priests	55%	20%	26%
As pastors in the Southern Baptist Convention	57%	15%	28%
To the priesthood in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Mormon Church)	50%	18%	32%

6. In terms of contributing to child sexual abuse in churches, do you think that allowing only men to be ordained as priests or pastors is ... ?

A major factor	36%
A minor factor	21%
Not a factor	19%
Not sure	24%

7. Do you support or oppose allowing Catholic priests to get married?

Support	69%
Oppose	8%
Not sure	23%

8. In terms of contributing to child sexual abuse in churches, do you think that requiring priests or pastors to remain celibate is ... ?

A major factor	43%
A minor factor	21%
Not a factor	13%
Not sure	23%

9. Compared to other walks of life, do you think child sexual abuse in churches is ... ?

More common	31%
As common	38%
Less common	12%
Not sure	20%

10. Do you think church leaders usually try to prevent the sexual abuse of children, or usually try to cover up the problem?

Prevent	12%
Cover up	42%
Both	32%
Not sure	14%

11. Should it be illegal for a clergy person to exploit an adult congregant's emotional dependency on them for sex?

Yes	62%
No	13%
Not sure	26%

12. Should clergy be required to report plausible cases of child abuse to police or state social workers?

Yes	80%
No	6%
Not sure	14%

13. Should clergy be required to report plausible cases of child abuse even if they were told about the abuse in confidence during a person's spiritual confession?

Yes	66%
No	11%
Not sure	23%

14. A statute of limitations is a law that sets the maximum time that a person has to initiate legal proceedings from the date an alleged offense occurs. What do you think the maximum time allowed by a statute of limitations should be to file charges in cases of child sexual abuse?

2 years or less	4%
3 - 6 years	5%
7 - 10 years	9%
11 - 15 years	4%
16 - 20 years	6%
21 - 30 years	3%
31 - 40 years	1%
More than 40 years	4%
There should be no maximum time	46%
Not sure	17%

15. How often do you think clergy who commit or enable child sexual abuse are prosecuted for their actions?

All of the time	6%
Most of the time	6%
Sometimes	24%
Rarely	44%
Never	5%
Not sure	16%

16. Do you personally know any victims of child sexual abuse by a clergy member or church official?

Yes	11%
No	69%
Not sure	15%
Prefer not to say	5%

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Interviewing Dates	August 30 - September 4, 2022
Target population	U.S. Citizens, aged 18 and over.
Sampling method	Respondents were selected from YouGov's opt-in Internet panel using sample matching. A random sample (stratified by gender, age, race, education, geographic region, and voter registration) was selected from the 2018 American Community Study. Voter registration was imputed from the November 2018 Current Population Survey Registration and Voting Supplement.
Weighting	The sample was weighted based on gender, age, race, education, news interest, and 2020 Presidential vote (or non-vote). The weights range from 0.249 to 5.003, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.483.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 3.4% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	47 questions not reported.