

Canberra Institute of Technology
Sampling and Quality Assurance (MATH232)
Major Assignment for Semester 2, 2011
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Title

Religious Affiliation in the Childfree Community

Introduction

The purpose of this investigation is to determine the extent to which men and women identifying as childfree by choice profess religious adherence, and whether religion played any role in the decision to be childfree for the atheist respondents. The investigator has been a member of online childfree communities since 2005, and during that time, has noted that a significant number of fellow community members identified as holding no religious beliefs. Having been unable to identify formal studies or published works on religious belief and childfreedom, the investigator has sought to conduct this study in order to help contribute to the knowledge base on a minority group whose numbers are increasing, and has been the subject of burgeoning, positive media attention in the last two years.

Background

For this study, the population under investigation was the global childfree community, with an anticipated yield of one hundred responses.

Definitions

Childfree: "Having no children; childless, especially by choice."¹ Note that the preferred term is "childfree," and will be used throughout the report.

Religion: "A set of beliefs concerning the cause, nature, and purpose of the universe, especially when considered as the creation of a superhuman agency or agencies, usually involving devotional and ritual observances, and often containing a moral code governing the conduct of human affairs."²

Atheism: "The doctrine or belief that there is no God; disbelief in the existence of a supreme being or beings."³

Method

An online survey of ten questions, created via the online tool Survey Monkey, which is reproduced in the appendix. As the childfree community predominantly communicates via the internet, the simplest means of collecting data was through an online survey. This helped ensure high participation numbers, which should provide a representative sample of the childfree population, at least in the English-speaking world. While it would have been possible to conduct a survey restricted to childfree Australians, it is highly doubtful that imposing a geographical limit would have produced a sufficient number of results. In any case, the fact that childfree populations appear to be small by city/region (e.g., eight childfree adults who live in Canberra and are known to the investigator), it would have been necessary to carry out such a survey online. Hence, it was appropriate and just as practical to conduct a global survey.

¹ <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/childfree> Retrieved 13 November 2011.

² <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/religion> Retrieved 13 November 2011.

³ <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/atheism> Retrieved 13 November 2011.

The link to the survey and a summary of the survey's aims was posted on the following sites, reaching a total of over five thousand childfree adults around the world.

1. The Childfree Life⁴
2. reddit/r/childfree⁵
3. Happily Childfree⁶ (Facebook page of the popular website and blog of the same name.)
4. Families of Two: Childfree and Beyond⁷ (Facebook page of author and blogger Laura Carroll, who regularly surveys the childfree community on a variety of topics.)
5. The investigator's Facebook page.⁸

Due to time constraints, the survey was open from 20 to 24 October, 2011. During this time, the survey received 487 responses. These had slowed to a trickle by 24 October, and by closing it at that time, the investigator does not feel that any potential participants missed out. Further, no feedback to that effect was received.

Results and Discussion

Question 1: Are you male or female?

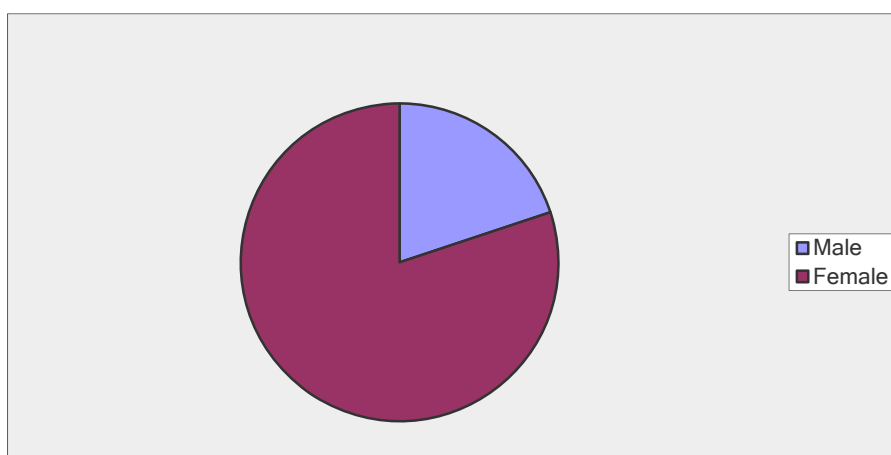


Figure 1: Breakdown of survey participants by sex.

| Answer Options | Percentage | Number |
|----------------|-------------|------------|
| Male | 19.9% | 97 |
| Female | 80.1% | 390 |
| Total | 100% | 487 |

Table 1: Breakdown of survey participants by sex.

Three hundred and ninety (80.1%) respondents identified as female, and 97 (19.9%) identified as male. Most members of online childfree communities are women. This is due to greater societal pressure on women to reproduce. As a result, childfree women tend to be more vocal about their decision, and more likely to seek out like-minded women, to whom they can relate more readily than peers who are parents. This is likely to account for the high proportion of female respondents.

⁴ <http://thechildfreelife.com/forum/viewtopic.php?p=229120#p229120>

⁵ <http://redd.it/li38a>

⁶ <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Happily-Childfree/157616264817>

⁷ <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Families-of-Two-Childfree-and-Beyond/139821682696375>

⁸ <http://www.facebook.com/CFinfidelgirl>

Question 2: Which category below includes your age?

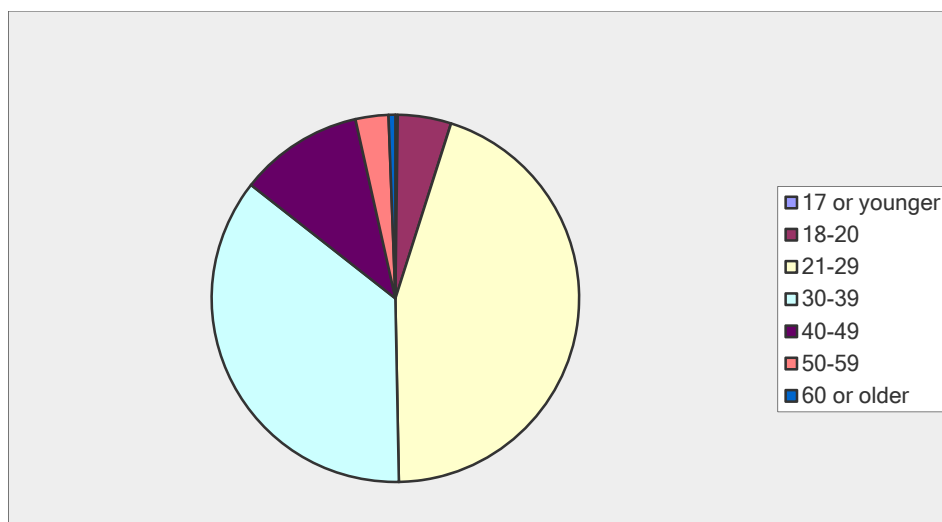


Figure 2: Breakdown of participants' ages.

| Answer Options | Percentage | Number |
|----------------|-------------|------------|
| 17 or younger | 0.2% | 1 |
| 18-20 | 4.7% | 23 |
| 21-29 | 44.8% | 218 |
| 30-39 | 35.9% | 175 |
| 40-49 | 10.9% | 53 |
| 50-59 | 2.9% | 14 |
| 60 or older | 0.6% | 3 |
| Total | 100% | 487 |

Table 2: Breakdown of participants' ages.

The childfree choice is gaining popularity among Generation X (ages 30 to 49 years), whose responses are second-highest by age group (36%). This reflected in these results, and supported by a recent study conducted by the Center for Work-Life Policy.⁹ In the absence of formal studies, the high numbers of Generation Y respondents (ages 21 to 29 years; 45%) is in line with the investigator's observations of childfree communities on the internet. The lower rates of responses from individuals aged 50 years or older is to be expected, as the choice not to raise children, while gaining acceptability now, was not deemed an acceptable or valid choice in preceding decades.

The investigator had intended to open the survey to childfree men and women aged at least 18, however, this demographic question included the "17 or younger" response, without the possibility of excluding that option.

⁹ "Generation X: Overlooked and Hugely Important."

<https://www.worklifepolicy.org/documents/X%20Factor%20Press%20Release%20final.pdf>

Question 3: Please state your country of residence.

| Country | Percentage | Number |
|--------------------------|-------------|------------|
| United States of America | 73.3% | 357 |
| Canada | 7.0% | 34 |
| United Kingdom | 6.4% | 31 |
| Czech Republic | 2.5% | 12 |
| Australia | 1.9% | 9 |
| Finland | 1.4% | 7 |
| Germany | 1.1% | 5 |
| Ireland | 0.8% | 4 |
| Netherlands | 0.8% | 4 |
| France | 0.6% | 3 |
| Mexico | 0.6% | 3 |
| Portugal | 0.6% | 3 |
| New Zealand | 0.4% | 2 |
| Belgium | 0.2% | 1 |
| Croatia | 0.2% | 1 |
| Greece | 0.2% | 1 |
| Hungary | 0.2% | 1 |
| India | 0.2% | 1 |
| Italy | 0.2% | 1 |
| Philippines | 0.2% | 1 |
| Qatar | 0.2% | 1 |
| Singapore | 0.2% | 1 |
| South Africa | 0.2% | 1 |
| Spain | 0.2% | 1 |
| Sweden | 0.2% | 1 |
| Switzerland | 0.2% | 1 |
| Total | 100% | 487 |

Table 3: Survey participants' countries of residence.

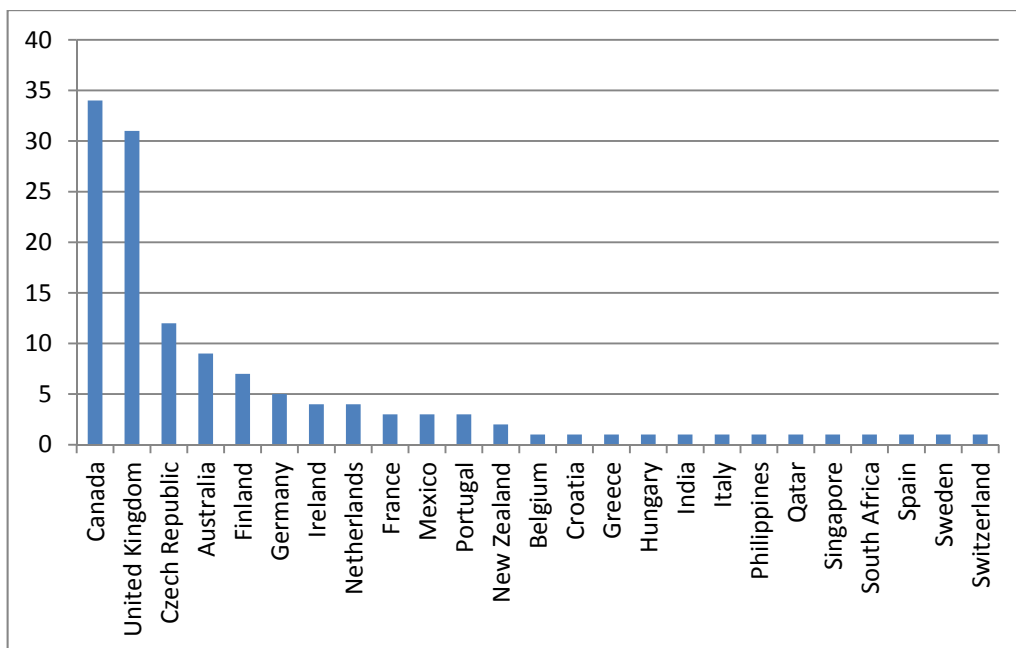


Figure 3: Respondents' country data with USA responses excluded.

As that the survey was posted on English-language fora for childfree people, it is not surprising that 73.3% of respondents reside in the United States of America. Participation from countries where English is not the

predominant language spoken, while small in numbers, does help to provide a welcome perspective from other cultural backgrounds, and indicates that the choice not to raise children is not only gaining ground in the western world, but across the globe.

Question 4: Please state your parents' religion.

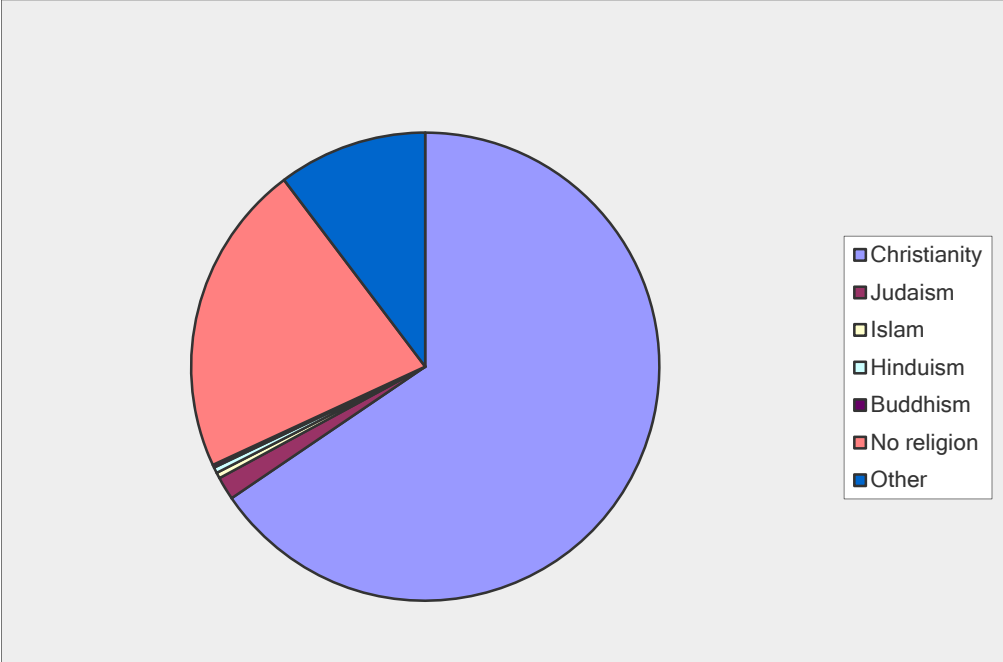


Figure 4: Religious affiliation of respondents' parents, by listed responses.

| Answer Options | Percentage | Number |
|------------------------|-------------|------------|
| Christianity | 65.5% | 319 |
| Judaism | 1.6% | 8 |
| Islam | 0.4% | 2 |
| Hinduism | 0.4% | 2 |
| Buddhism | 0.2% | 1 |
| No religion | 21.6% | 105 |
| Other | 10.3% | 50 |
| Other (please specify) | | 66 |
| Total | 100% | 487 |

Table 4: Religious affiliation of respondents' parents, by listed responses.

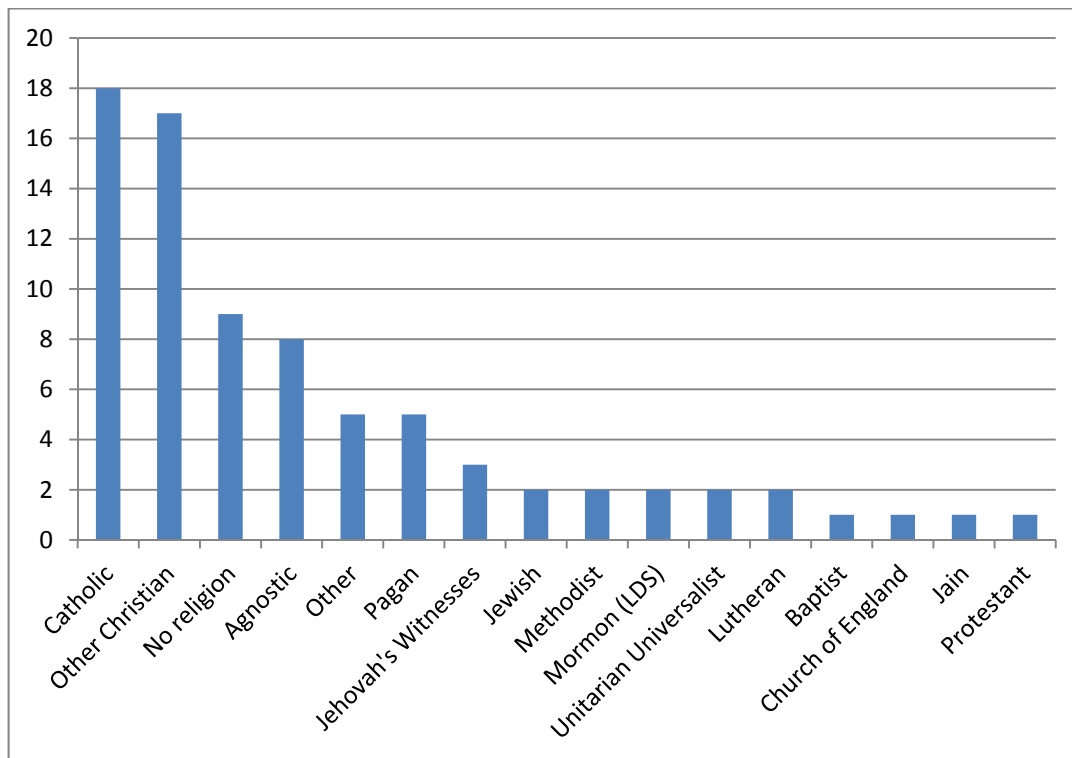


Figure 5: Religions of respondents' parents. Responses from the "other" text box.

| Religion | Number |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Catholic | 18 |
| Other Christian | 17 |
| No religion | 9 |
| Agnostic | 8 |
| Other | 5 |
| Pagan | 5 |
| Jehovah's Witnesses | 3 |
| Jewish | 2 |
| Methodist | 2 |
| Mormon (LDS) | 2 |
| Unitarian Universalist | 2 |
| Lutheran | 2 |
| Baptist | 1 |
| Church of England | 1 |
| Jain | 1 |
| Protestant | 1 |
| Total responses | 81 |

Table 5: Respondents' answers from the "other" text box.

Note: The "other" category includes non-standard responses such as "spiritual," "new age", or "theist," which do not fall into line with the practices of any one religion. "Other Christian" covers Christians who didn't specify a denomination.

As the top five responses by country of residence originated from countries where Christianity is a commonly-practiced faith¹⁰, it is not surprising that 368 (75.6%) of participants reported that their parents are adherents of a Christian denomination.

¹⁰ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity_by_country#By_country

Question 5: Were you raised to hold the same religious beliefs (or lack thereof) as your parents?

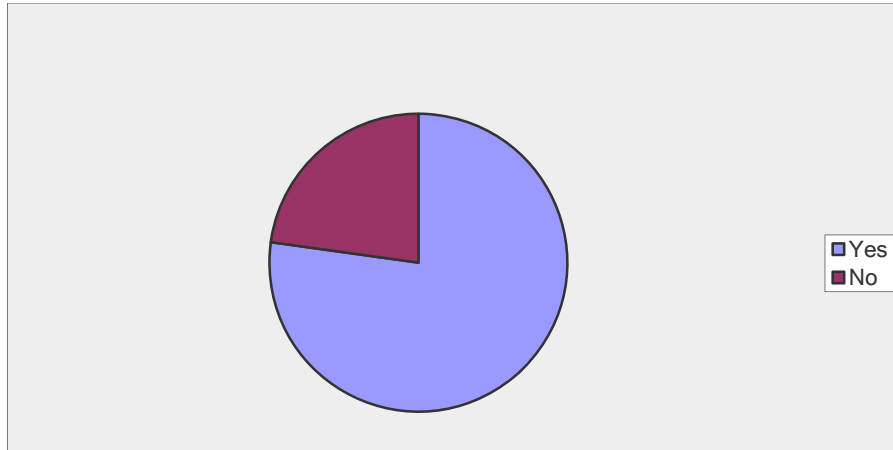


Figure 6: Breakdown of participants raised as members of their parents' religion.

| Answer Options | Percentage | Number |
|----------------|-------------|------------|
| Yes | 77.2% | 376 |
| No | 22.8% | 111 |
| Total | 100% | 487 |

Table 6: Breakdown of participants raised as members of their parents' religion.

Just over 77% of respondents stated that they were raised to hold the same religious beliefs as their parents. This reflects a potential weakness of the survey design, as the investigator did not include an option or question that catered to respondents whose parents had different religions. The 22.8% of respondents who reported that they were not raised in the same faith as their parents likely account for this design shortcoming.

Question 6: Do you currently hold any religious beliefs?

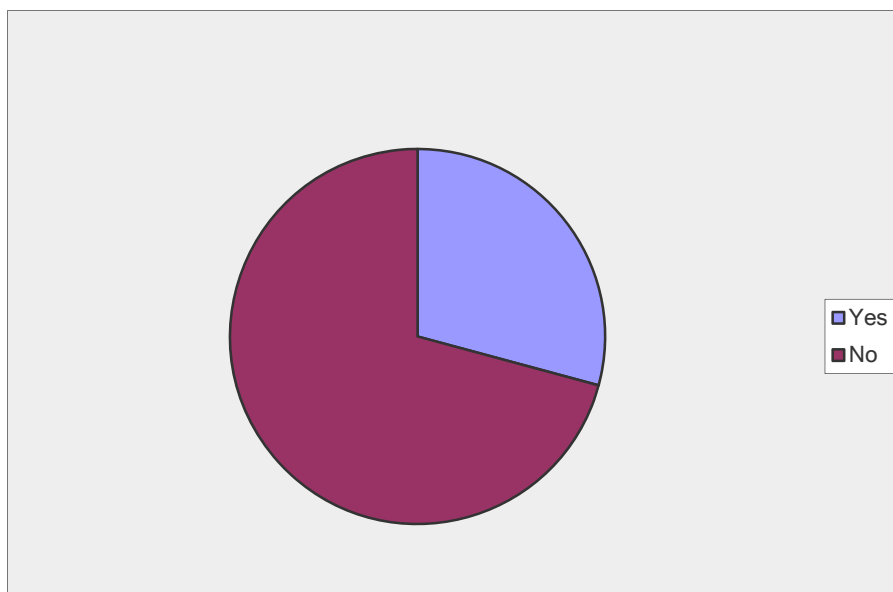


Figure 7: Participants' current adherence to a religion.

| Answer Options | Percentage | Number |
|----------------|-------------|------------|
| Yes | 29.2% | 142 |
| No | 70.8% | 345 |
| Total | 100% | 487 |

Table 7: Participants' current adherence to religion.

Just under 71% of respondents are atheists - that is, they do not belong to any religion – with the other 29.2% reporting religious adherence. The investigator has noted a high proportion of atheist members in childfree communities online during her six years of interacting with other like-minded individuals in those communities, and this result appears to corroborate this anecdotal observation.

The fact that 70.8% of survey respondents identified as having no religion shows that atheists in the childfree community outnumber atheists in the general population by a factor of four in the United States, and a factor of three in Australia. In the United States, 15% of the population identifies as not belonging to any religion¹¹; the figure from the 2006 Australian census is 18.7%.¹²

Although the investigator purposely refrained from posting the link to the survey in religious or atheist childfree communities, another person posted the link in an atheist childfree community. The post was active for approximately thirty minutes before it was deleted. There is a possibility that this caused a slight skew in the results.

Question 7: If you answered "yes" to Question 6, to what extent do you feel your decision to be childfree is respected within your religious community?

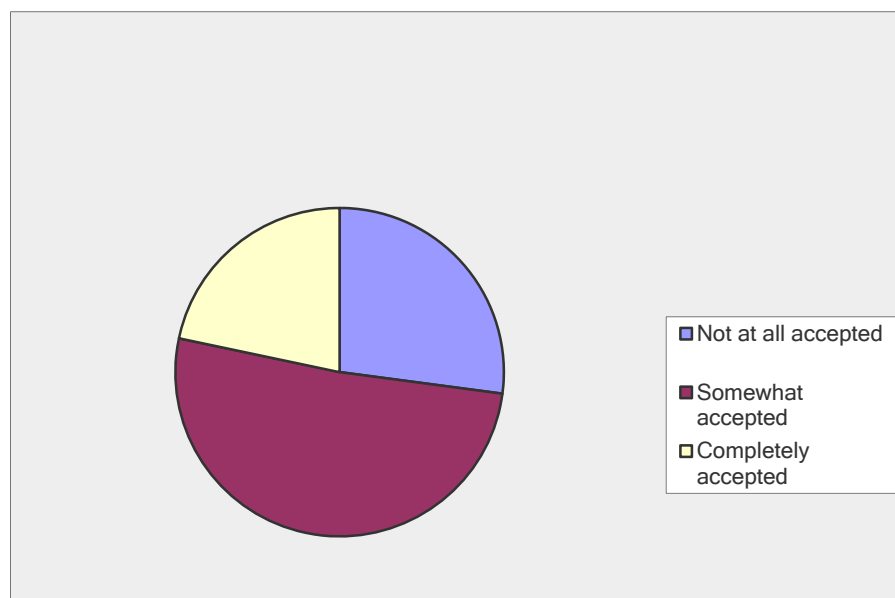


Figure 8: Attitudes towards the childfree choice within each respondent's religious community.

¹¹ Kosmin, B.A. and Keysar, A. *American Religious Identification Survey (ARIS) 2008*, p.3.

http://b27.cc.trincoll.edu/weblogs/AmericanReligionSurvey-ARIS/reports/ARIS_Report_2008.pdf

¹² *The People of Australia: Statistics from the 2006 Census*, p. 48.

<http://www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/research/pdf/poa-2008.pdf>

| Answer Options | Percentage | Number |
|---------------------|-------------|------------|
| Not at all accepted | 27.1% | 45 |
| Somewhat accepted | 51.2% | 85 |
| Completely accepted | 21.7% | 36 |
| Total | 100% | 166 |

Table 8: Attitudes encountered by religious respondents regarding their choice.

Note: One hundred and sixty-six (34.1%) survey respondents answered this question.

Just fewer than 73% of religious respondents felt that their decision is at least accepted to a degree. It is disappointing to note that 27.1% of religious respondents feel that their choice is not at all accepted by their churches. However, the levels of at least partial acceptance are relatively high – higher than initially expected, which is an encouraging sign and it is hoped that this figure indicates that acceptance of the childfree choice is indeed increasing.

Question 8: If you answered "yes" to Question 6, to what extent do you feel your decision to be childfree is respected by the community at large?

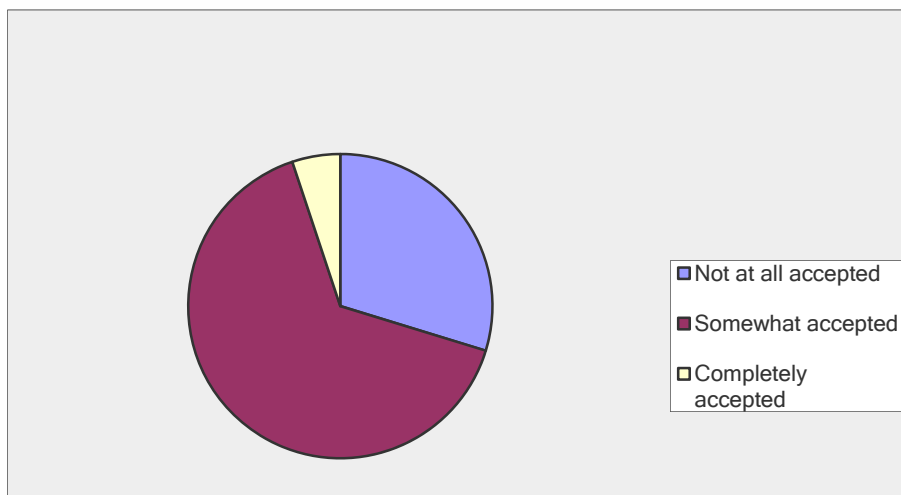


Figure 9: Attitudes towards the childfree choice within the religious respondents' wider community.

| Answer Options | Percentage | Number |
|---------------------|-------------|------------|
| Not at all accepted | 29.7% | 52 |
| Somewhat accepted | 65.1% | 114 |
| Completely accepted | 5.1% | 9 |
| Total | 100% | 175 |

Table 9: Attitudes encountered by religious respondents in the wider community.

Note: One hundred and seventy-five (36%) respondents answered this question.

Just over 70% of participants responded that they feel their decision is either somewhat or completely accepted by the broader community, while the remaining 29.7% feel that their decision is not accepted at all. It is also interesting to note that there appears to be slightly greater acceptance of childfree individuals and their choice within religious communities than was reported for the wider community (72.9% in religious communities versus 70.2% in the wider community). Taken together with the results of the previous question, this seems to confirm that, although there is still room for improvement, the childfree choice seems to be gaining wider acceptance.

Question 9: If you were raised in a religious home but hold no religious beliefs today, do you feel that your religious upbringing influenced your decision to be childfree?

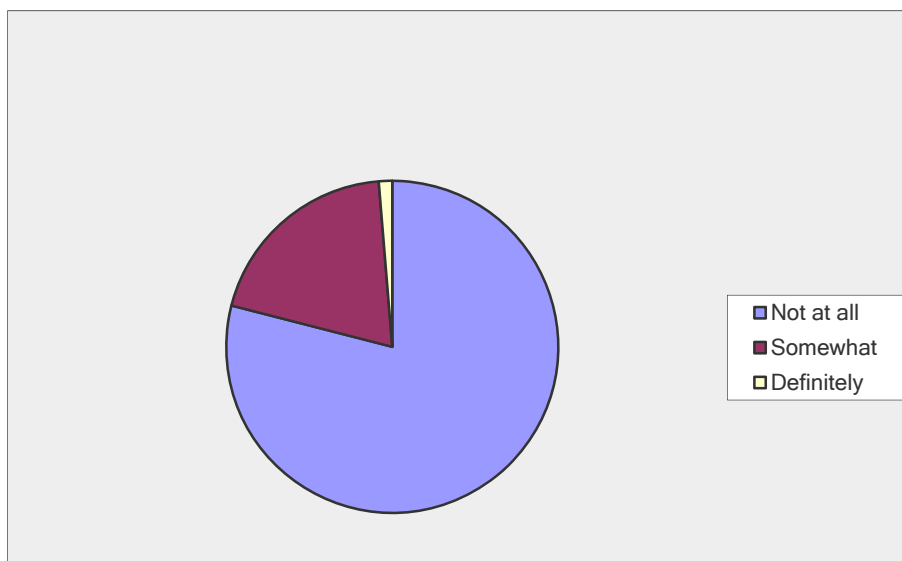


Figure 10: Influence of religious upbringing on non-religious respondents.

| Answer Options | Percentage | Number |
|----------------|-------------|------------|
| Not at all | 79.0% | 252 |
| Somewhat | 19.7% | 63 |
| Definitely | 1.3% | 4 |
| Total | 100% | 319 |

Table 10: Influence of religious upbringing on non-religious respondents.

Note: Three hundred and nineteen (65.5%) respondents answered this question.

This is a very surprising result, with only 1.3% of respondents stating that their religious upbringing had any bearing on their decision to be childfree. Just under 20% of participants stated that their religious upbringing somewhat influenced their decision. It would be interesting to investigate this further, and determine whether the respondents whose faiths did influence their decision belonged to a particularly hardline or fundamentalist faith, in which traditional gender roles were strongly emphasised. It is very encouraging to note that the overwhelming majority of respondents stated that the religion of their childhood appear to be liberal to the extent that these did not influence their decision not to have children.

Question 10: If you were raised in a secular home and hold no religious beliefs today, what factors influenced your decision to be childfree?

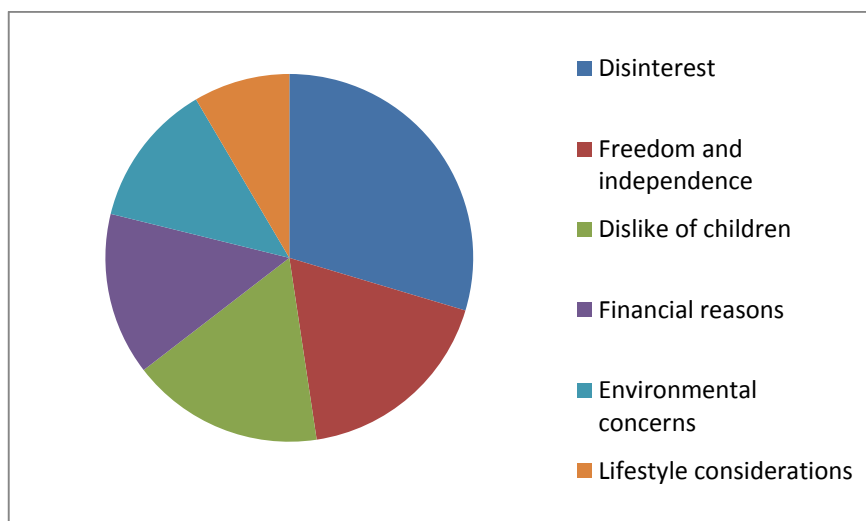


Figure 11: Top six contributing factors to the childfree choice.

| Reason for not wanting children | Number |
|---|------------|
| Disinterest | 56 |
| Freedom and independence | 34 |
| Dislike of children | 32 |
| Financial reasons | 27 |
| Environmental concerns | 24 |
| Lifestyle considerations | 16 |
| Other | 16 |
| Not answered | 15 |
| Medical reasons | 10 |
| State of the world (violence, politics, crime) | 9 |
| Poor childhood experiences (neglect, abuse) | 8 |
| Relatives' or peers' poor experiences with parenthood | 8 |
| Unwillingness to care for a child | 8 |
| Career | 7 |
| Desire to fulfil own goals | 7 |
| Unwilling to go through pregnancy/birth | 6 |
| Helped raise younger siblings | 4 |
| Spouse doesn't want children | 3 |
| Not worthwhile | 2 |
| Poor experiences with other children | 2 |
| Total | 294 |

Table 11: Summary of all responses as to contributing factors to the childfree choice.

Note: The category "not answered" includes responses regarding religion, "not applicable", and nonsensical answers. The responses for the other categories were gleaned from reasons supplied in each response. The category "other" includes a diverse variety of reasons, which were only mentioned once (e.g., poor or absent male role models, fear of paedophiles, lack of desire for worldly things). One hundred and seventy-four respondents answered this question.

This question was included for the sake of completeness, to give participants the opportunity to list their reasons for choosing to live childfree lives. This survey is not intended as an exhaustive or authoritative study on the reasons for deciding to be childfree by choice. The results of such a survey were published by Laura S.

Scott in 2009, titled *Two is Enough: A Couple's Guide to Living Childless by Choice*. The investigator encourages those who wish to know more about the reasons behind the decision to read this book.

It is noteworthy that the following motives received responses in both surveys.

- Freedom and independence;
- Disinterest in becoming a parent;
- Desire to fulfil own goals;
- Financial reasons;
- State of the world;
- Career considerations;
- Relatives' or friends' poor experiences with parenthood;
- Poor childhood experiences;
- Dislike of children; and
- Concerns about pregnancy and birth.

Confidence intervals

Confidence intervals are required for the key estimates determined by this investigation. The result of 70.8% respondents identifying as non-religious has the following confidence interval:

$\hat{p} \pm 1.96 \sqrt{\hat{p}(1 - \hat{p}) \div n}$, where

$\hat{p} = 0.708$

$n = 487$

$0.708 + 1.96 \sqrt{0.708(1 - 0.708) \div 487} = 0.75$

$0.708 - 1.96 \sqrt{0.708(1 - 0.708) \div 487} = 0.67$

This means we can be 95% certain that between 67% and 75% of childfree respondents can be expected to report that they have no religious affiliation.

The division of atheist respondents who stated that religion had no influence on their decision to be childfree (79%):

$\hat{p} \pm 1.96 \sqrt{\hat{p}(1 - \hat{p}) \div n}$, where

$\hat{p} = 0.79$

$n = 487$

$0.79 + 1.96 \sqrt{0.79(1 - 0.79) \div 487} = 0.83$

$0.79 - 1.96 \sqrt{0.79(1 - 0.79) \div 487} = 0.75$

This means we can be 95% certain that between 75% and 83% of childfree atheists are likely to respond that a religious upbringing had no influence on their decision to be childfree.

Problems

Possibility of sampling bias

As mentioned above, the survey link was briefly posted at Selfish Heathens (childfree atheist community). The investigator had previously identified Selfish Heathens and the Childfree Christian communities as inappropriate venues, whose members had the potential to skew the results of the survey by their participation. It is hoped that, since the link was only briefly visible on Selfish Heathens, that only a minimal skew in favour of atheism occurred.

The investigator received feedback to the effect that Reddit was frequented by a high proportion of atheists and thus not the most suitable venue for collecting responses. As Reddit is a diverse community and hosts

religious as well as atheist communities, the investigator felt it was appropriate to post the link in Reddit's childfree community.

The survey should also have been posted on the two major childfree communities on Livejournal (Childfree and Childfree_Hardcore). This was an unintended omission on the investigator's part.

The fact that the survey was in English and posted on English-language message boards and pages is another possible limiting factor, as it potentially excluded participants who do not speak the English.

Sample size

The investigator aimed to obtain a sample of 100 responses. The survey received 487 responses in total, which far exceeded expectations, and was more than adequate.

Reliability and accuracy of data

The investigator received feedback from two participants, which mentioned that the wording of some of the questions was awkward or complicated. This needs to be taken into consideration in future surveys. It is possible that the wording of some question confused some of the respondents, and that some of the data is inaccurate as a result. Some of the questions did not require a mandatory response, and the Survey Monkey tool kept a count of the number of respondents who skipped each question.

The investigator also failed to take into account that some respondents would have been raised by parents who each professed membership of a different religion. It is possible that this caused a data skew.

Free responses

It took several hours to read and tabulate all the responses for question 10. This could have been avoided by asking participants to nominate their key reason for not wanting to have children, or by supplying a multiple-choice list based on the reasons cited in *Two is Enough: A Couple's Guide to Living Childless by Choice*.

Conclusion

As expected, there is a positive relationship between individuals who are childfree by choice and absence of religious belief, and that atheists within the childfree community significantly outnumber atheists in the general population, at least in Australia and the United States. The investigator was also interested in examining whether religion had any bearing on the survey participants' decision to live a childfree life. The survey shows that religiosity in the childfree community is relatively low, with 29% of respondents identifying as religious; and that religion is a relatively low influencing factor in the decision to remain childfree, at 21%.

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Appendices

See attachments.

Appendix A: The survey questions.

Appendix B: Free responses provided in question 10.

Religious Affiliation in the Childfree Community

[Exit this survey](#)*** 1. Are you male or female?**

Male

Female

*** 2. Which category below includes your age?**

17 or younger

18-20

21-29

30-39

40-49

50-59

60 or older

*** 3. Please state your country of residence.**

Country:

*** 4. Please state your parents' religion.**

Christianity

Judaism

Islam

Hinduism

Buddhism

No religion

Other

Other (please specify)

*** 5. Were you raised to hold the same religious beliefs (or lack thereof) as your parents?**

Yes

No

*** 6. Do you currently hold any religious beliefs?**

Yes

No

7. If you answered "yes" to Question 6, to what extent do you feel your decision to be childfree is respected within your religious community?

Not at all accepted

Somewhat accepted

Completely accepted

8. If you answered "yes" to Question 6, to what extent do you feel your decision to be childfree is respected by the community at large?

Not at all accepted

Somewhat accepted

Completely accepted

9. If you were raised in a religious home but hold no religious beliefs today, do you feel that your religious upbringing influenced your decision to be childfree?

Not at all

Somewhat

Definitely

10. If you were raised in a secular home and hold no religious beliefs today, what factors influenced your decision to be childfree?

Powered by **SurveyMonkey**
Create your own [free online survey](#) now!

Religious Affiliation in the Childfree Community SurveyMonkey

If you were raised in a secular home and hold no religious beliefs today, what factors influenced your decision to be childfree?

| | Response Count |
|-------------------|----------------|
| | 174 |
| answered question | 174 |
| skipped question | 313 |

Q1. If you were raised in a secular home and hold no religious beliefs today, what factors influenced your decision to be childfree?

| | | |
|----|---|-----------------------|
| 1 | 1. Lack of inclination towards children (something my Mum shares and I don't think I'd have been born if CF had been more socially acceptable in her day). 2. Worries about overpopulation and the state of our world. I wouldn't want to bring a kid into that. | Oct 24, 2011 3:57 AM |
| 2 | ... | Oct 23, 2011 11:11 PM |
| 3 | overpopulation, expense, risk, lack of father's rights, lack of strong male role models for children, poor modern education for males, societal paranoia about pedophiles, personal experience of childhood | Oct 23, 2011 9:35 PM |
| 4 | It's not so much a decision as a simple fact. I've never felt the need or wish to bear a child. | Oct 23, 2011 12:37 PM |
| 5 | Um.. sorry ... maybe my answers won't make sense because I was raised as a secular Christian. Think secular Jew. As in, Sunday School, Bibles, Religious holidays but only the trimmings. I do this kind of thing for a living and think you would have benefitted from a qu re the strength / intensity of religious upbringing? Or similar. | Oct 23, 2011 5:25 AM |
| 6 | Just not interested. Having and raising children would severely restrict my ability to fulfill my dreams and live life the way I want. Plus it has always seemed cruel and vaguely unethical to me to bring a child into the world only to suffer and die. | Oct 23, 2011 2:25 AM |
| 7 | Kids seem to be an inconvenience to my lifestyle, I have no desire to wipe some kid's ass and pay for him while I lose sleep and can't go backpacking, so I had a vasectomy at 23 and never looked back. | Oct 22, 2011 3:40 PM |
| 8 | Religion has/had zero impact of effect on my being childfree. I'm agnostic now and consider myself a "cultural Jew" meaning I like the holidays and traditions but am not religious at all whatsoever. The factors that influenced my decision to be childfree are many, starting when I became a babysitter at 13. I saw how hard it is caring for children and slowly decided that it wasn't for me. Throughout college I just started seeing more and more how different adults' lives were after having a child, and I knew I never wanted to give up my freedom and independence. Luckily, Judaism isn't heavily child-centric as much as Catholicism. | Oct 22, 2011 2:58 PM |
| 9 | The state of the world - crime, violence, environmental concerns. Time, financial reasons, unable to see how I could possibly "do it all" and do it well. Over population. No point to being alive in the first place, so why keep breeding? It seems a pointless endeavour to me. | Oct 22, 2011 2:02 AM |
| 10 | assd | Oct 21, 2011 3:09 PM |
| 11 | Never wanted them. | Oct 21, 2011 1:26 PM |
| 12 | Your mom. | Oct 21, 2011 1:07 PM |
| 13 | Please note* I was raised christian, but not longer hold those beliefs. I am a believer in The Old Ways. My decision to be childfree was not influenced by religious beliefs. | Oct 21, 2011 12:23 PM |
| 14 | Genetics. No biological compulsion. Logic. Goals and Aspirations. | Oct 21, 2011 11:52 AM |
| 15 | I've just never had the desire to be around children. I've never babysat or | Oct 21, 2011 11:01 AM |

Q1. If you were raised in a secular home and hold no religious beliefs today, what factors influenced your decision to be childfree?

| | | |
|----|--|-----------------------|
| | had to take care of children. I would rather spend my time around adults or animals (ie my dogs). I enjoy my life as it is and the complete freedom I have from doing anything child related. I don't know that there is any factor other than I just don't want to be tied down with a child and all the responsibility that goes along with it. It seems like a very thankless job and not worth the headaches I see people going through raising kids in today's world. I'll take my furbabies over a human baby any day!! | |
| 16 | Personal choice, freedom, natural disinclination towards motherhood. | Oct 21, 2011 9:06 AM |
| 17 | I used to want kids, but my wife made a good case against it. | Oct 21, 2011 5:44 AM |
| 18 | I do not enjoy children. I've never had any desire to have one. | Oct 21, 2011 5:24 AM |
| 19 | I like life too much to dedicate it to anyone else but myself. Also, I feel that no general good comes from having children, there is just no need for more. | Oct 21, 2011 3:24 AM |
| 20 | I want to be able to do what I want when I want, I want all my money available for me, the career of housekeeper never interested me, I don't like parents and I don't want to be one, I have been miserable during all my childhood and don't want to do that to someone. | Oct 21, 2011 12:18 AM |
| 21 | I have never ever wanted to be a parent. It's simply just the way I feel and have always felt. I don't know why I feel this way, but I guess I'm born without a biological clock. | Oct 21, 2011 12:15 AM |
| 22 | I have always known from a young age (5 or so) that I do NOT want children. I specifically remember being in public places and hearing crying babies and just *knowing* that I do not EVER want to deal with any of that. That sound was like nails on a chalkboard to my ears. I never liked the smell of babies, either. These were my feelings as a child. I do not consider myself to have been a typical child, either. I spent a lot of time alone reading and watching educational television and foreign movies. I was never drawn to dolls and found zero amusement in those baby-like dolls (the kind that you burp and play "mommy" with). As time passed, these feelings were reinforced by seeing just how much people struggle raising children and how their lives are consumed by them. It is almost like their entire identity is stripped from them. I consider myself to be very independent and in no way, shape or form, EVER want my identity to be taken away from me to fulfill one single role. I am sure there are people that may find great satisfaction in parenthood, but all those struggles and cons are simply not worth it in my eyes. I think it is pretty sad that people feel the need to find happiness in another human being. Happiness should come from within. Hope this explanation helped. :) | Oct 21, 2011 12:12 AM |
| 23 | natural reason | Oct 20, 2011 11:54 PM |
| 24 | The mere fact that I have no desire to have children! | Oct 20, 2011 11:50 PM |
| 25 | Mainly environmental reasons, as in I wouldn't want to subject anyone else to life on earth as it is. I also had a very difficult childhood and would rather that wasn't repeated, a guarantee to this is that I don't have a child. | Oct 20, 2011 11:26 PM |
| 26 | It's just not worth the pain. | Oct 20, 2011 11:05 PM |
| 27 | I just never felt the urge to have children. I not a big people person and since I'm the oldest of the grandchildren I had to put up with alot of younger cousins and they were never anything to write home about. I feel that my | Oct 20, 2011 10:47 PM |

Q1. If you were raised in a secular home and hold no religious beliefs today, what factors influenced your decision to be childfree?

| | | |
|----|---|-----------------------|
| | Independence is the most important facet of my life and never want to lose it because of something dependent on me, although pets are fine with me. Animals are much more interesting to me then people. | |
| 28 | Never wanted kids and neither did my husband. | Oct 20, 2011 10:09 PM |
| 29 | It consists of many components. I've just never had the desire to want kids. As a kid I preferred the company of grown-ups so I just didn't like the other kids and now as a young adult I still don't like them. They are annoying. | Oct 20, 2011 9:54 PM |
| 30 | I just never liked children to begin with. And I still do not like them. Guess I didn't want the responsibility and wanted to remain free to do what I want, when I want :) | Oct 20, 2011 9:53 PM |
| 31 | I was horrified at the idea of being a mother even as a child. It also doesn't help that my mom nearly died giving birth to my sister and that sister ended up being a shitty mother (who moves a province away from their children, and temporarily moves to the states to be a nanny??). | Oct 20, 2011 9:22 PM |
| 32 | Don't enjoy children.... Want more freedom to move/travel/buy as I wish.... If I WERE to want children, I would adopt first...World is already over-populated. | Oct 20, 2011 9:17 PM |
| 33 | Overpopulation, lack of resources for my potential offspring, a lack of desire to be a parent, and genetic problems I don't want to pass on. | Oct 20, 2011 9:00 PM |
| 34 | Health problems, professional demands. | Oct 20, 2011 8:10 PM |
| 35 | It's just logical to not breed. | Oct 20, 2011 7:58 PM |
| 36 | i just never wanted kids. i think small children have always annoyed me, even when i was a pretty small child myself. as i got older, i thought maybe i'd change my mind, but only found more reasons i did not want children. so many big decisions. i don't want that kind of responsibility, it's hard enough making decisions for ME. and as i learned about "the state of the world", and the environment, and overpopulation, that just cemented my decision. i am an only child, if that matters. i answered both #9 and #10 because i had one religious and one non-religious parent... | Oct 20, 2011 7:54 PM |
| 37 | Using my brain (ie logic) | Oct 20, 2011 7:47 PM |
| 38 | Being the oldest child out of four and being expected to help my parents raise my younger siblings and seeing family members suffer through pregnancy and childbirth. | Oct 20, 2011 7:34 PM |
| 39 | I enjoy the time that I spend by myself and with my husband. I choose to be a person who can make spontaneous decisions and not have to worry about taking care of another human being. I enjoy the flexibility that I have in my career and continuing education that would otherwise be hindered by having a child. I also enjoy being able to spend money on traveling and luxury items rather than diapers and toys. Also having grown up in an abusive household, I firmly believe that some people should not have children. | Oct 20, 2011 7:18 PM |
| 40 | 1. I can't stand kids. 2. I like my peace and quiet. 3. I like my house clean and tidy. 4. I like my freedom and independence. | Oct 20, 2011 7:08 PM |
| 41 | Never had maternal instinct | Oct 20, 2011 7:05 PM |

Q1. If you were raised in a secular home and hold no religious beliefs today, what factors influenced your decision to be childfree?

| | | |
|----|---|----------------------|
| 42 | My own childhood. I was never around younger children and never really felt comfortable around them. I can truly say I've known I would be Childfree since around the age of 10. At 33 I cemented my decision with a tubal ligation. | Oct 20, 2011 6:35 PM |
| 43 | I've known since I was 12 that I didn't want kids. Just... not interested. Would rather have pets and a peaceful house. Being Roman Catholic, you can't get married unless you're "open to life" (want kids), and so I chased a group of nuns around for a few years until I gave up on trying to get them to let me enter. Then after my dad died and my first husband (a former Catholic monk) turned emotionally and physically abusive on me, I "took a break" from religion. I haven't gone back. And I haven't once ever had an interest in having kids. Just not my cuppa tea. | Oct 20, 2011 6:34 PM |
| 44 | Freedom, disliking children, enjoying my life as is. | Oct 20, 2011 6:32 PM |
| 45 | I've just never been interested in having children. | Oct 20, 2011 6:30 PM |
| 46 | While parents were Catholic, we weren't raised as active Catholics. I/we chose to be child free because of age (37/40) and our lifestyle- we travel a lot and enjoy our freedom. | Oct 20, 2011 6:20 PM |
| 47 | I don't like children | Oct 20, 2011 6:19 PM |
| 48 | Not having the desire to have children. Along with not trust men. | Oct 20, 2011 6:10 PM |
| 49 | Even as a child, I could never wrap my head around why people would want to have kids. Kids seemed to limit adults' abilities to go places, do things and have fun. As far as religion, I started questioning WHY I was supposed to believe in some invisible man in the sky at age 6. I was forced to go to catechism and to make my first communion. After 2 years of catechism, I told my mother that freedom of religion was my constitutional right and told her point blank I would NOT be returning to catechism. I was 7. I've never, ever questioned my desire to be an atheist or my decision to not want children. Religion and children never had an interest for me. | Oct 20, 2011 5:51 PM |
| 50 | The ecological and political state of the planet, and the overpopulation of homo sapiens. And not having the burning desire to procreate. Also, the lack of a supportive partner and the lack of affordable childcare and minor factors. | Oct 20, 2011 5:51 PM |
| 51 | I think I was born this way; I can remember being as young as 4 years old and articulating that I did not want to have children. Even when I was a child, I didn't really like children much (except for one or two close friends) and preferred the company of adults. I still do not care much for children unless they are well behaved, articulate, quiet, and pleasant to be around. As far as beliefs, my parents were both baptized (as children) but never went to church and never really expressed any religious beliefs as adults/parents. I found my own way (a journey I appreciated being able to experience, as opposed to being force-fed religious beliefs by parents) and consider myself to be a pantheist. I answered "no" to question 6 because I consider pantheism to be more of a spiritual path than a religion. | Oct 20, 2011 5:48 PM |
| 52 | Not raised in a secular home | Oct 20, 2011 5:22 PM |
| 53 | My complete lack of desire to have kids. I've never had the urge at all, so if that whole "biological clock" thing is true, mine is completely broken. | Oct 20, 2011 5:15 PM |

Q1. If you were raised in a secular home and hold no religious beliefs today, what factors influenced your decision to be childfree?

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|----|--|----------------------|
| 54 | Parents divorced when I was young. Did not want to repeat my mothers life as single mum, poor, renting in bad area etc - bad enough growing up like that. Plus knew from young age not maternal. | Oct 20, 2011 5:06 PM |
| 55 | Helping to raise my young nieces and seeing how awful it is to be burdened with children. | Oct 20, 2011 5:04 PM |
| 56 | The utter lack of time, money, freedom, privacy and the crushing weight of responsibility that comes with a child can't be paid back in Kodak moments. Also, they're noisy, messy and they shit themselves. Disgusting. | Oct 20, 2011 4:59 PM |
| 57 | Dislike of children, educational goals, do not want to lose my freedom, economic reasons | Oct 20, 2011 4:50 PM |
| 58 | Never ever cared to breed. | Oct 20, 2011 4:45 PM |
| 59 | The lack of desire to raise a child properly. | Oct 20, 2011 4:38 PM |
| 60 | Having a baby is no longer a "need." We don't need children to help us farm the homestead. And we all know (or we SHOULD know) where babies come from. And there is certainly no lack of humans on the planet. Having a baby is a "want." And to me, it's the equivalent of having a very expensive hobby, one that you can never, ever give up. | Oct 20, 2011 4:23 PM |
| 61 | n/a | Oct 20, 2011 4:21 PM |
| 62 | Religion doesn't factor into my decision to be childfree. The world is over-populated enough. There are millions of starving/dying people at this very moment. I think more people should be childfree and proud of it! | Oct 20, 2011 4:19 PM |
| 63 | My Mother belong to a baby-sitting Coop. She was watching a member's 4-6 month old baby and after listening to it wail and cry (when I was 5 yo) I decided I did not want one. I'm also a nonconformist to an extent. Just because everyone else is jumping off a bridge doesn't mean I need to. | Oct 20, 2011 4:19 PM |
| 64 | **wanted to note - my personal religious beliefs are NOT that of my parents' / my upbringing. Other influences include career, sex life, hobbies, etc. | Oct 20, 2011 4:09 PM |
| 65 | Love for myself + inability to take care for another living being. | Oct 20, 2011 4:08 PM |
| 66 | My decision to be childfree has nothing to do with religion. I want to enjoy life to the fullest, more freedom and life is so short to raise children . I and my young hubby just want the two of us being fruitful without multiplying. | Oct 20, 2011 4:04 PM |
| 67 | I did not want to be stuck living the schedule that is required to raise a child. I want to keep my freedom until I die. | Oct 20, 2011 3:57 PM |
| 68 | No desire to be a parent. No need to add to a over-populated planet. No desire to add to the consumption issue in the world. | Oct 20, 2011 3:55 PM |
| 69 | I've just never had the urge to have children, and I was lucky enough to marry a man who never really wanted children, either. | Oct 20, 2011 3:53 PM |
| 70 | Hard to say specifically, other than I feel no real lust for worldly things in general. I love my tech gadgets, but can't stand when people place their unjustified "needs" ahead of their ability to support those needs. So, don't feel as if I NEED children to feel as if I have a place in life. Mine is defined | Oct 20, 2011 3:53 PM |

Q1. If you were raised in a secular home and hold no religious beliefs today, what factors influenced your decision to be childfree?

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|----|---|----------------------|
| | by who I am vice who I raise | |
| 71 | Economy, pursuit of education and freedom to pursue personal interests other than motherhood. | Oct 20, 2011 3:49 PM |
| 72 | Family history. Both a parent and grandparent were alcoholics. I don't want that to continue. I also have no desire/drive/urge to have kids. | Oct 20, 2011 3:45 PM |
| 73 | Seeing how miserable and trapped my childed friends were! | Oct 20, 2011 3:37 PM |
| 74 | I just don't want kids and don't see the point. I don't want the responsibility or burden of raising a child. The Mad About You episode where Jamie gives birth sealed the deal though. | Oct 20, 2011 3:27 PM |
| 75 | I like my lifestyle, freedom, cost of raising children, like to travel, it is better for the world | Oct 20, 2011 3:22 PM |
| 76 | I'm going to add something here because my home life was primarily secular, even though I was raised Catholic. To elaborate, I went to Catholic school and was brought to Catholic mass for Christmas and Easter, as well as Sunday mass when visiting my grandparents. However, my father was never religious, and in the home there was no religious influence. No crosses in the house, no bible study, no prayers before meals. As a child, I was taught to pray before bed and I received gifts of rosaries and bibles for graduation and communion, but these were mainly from my maternal grandparents or from the school. My decision to be childfree, however, was not impacted at all by my upbringing, and the religious instruction I did receive was fairly liberal and did not push parenthood or strict gender roles. My decision is based on finances, my personal interests and my plans for the future. | Oct 20, 2011 3:18 PM |
| 77 | Genetic problems | Oct 20, 2011 3:17 PM |
| 78 | I dislike them. | Oct 20, 2011 3:17 PM |
| 79 | My husband and I practicing Catholics and while we do not want children I would not abort an unplanned pregnancy. Although after 15 years together it hasn't happened so I think we're all set. My parents completely support my decision. | Oct 20, 2011 3:11 PM |
| 80 | N/A | Oct 20, 2011 3:08 PM |
| 81 | Money, independence, not wanting my own mother's life, not wanting to be pregnant or give birth, not wanting my career to suffer, not wanting to spend time with other mothers and just plain old not liking babies and children | Oct 20, 2011 3:05 PM |
| 82 | Excessive population growth in the world The cost of raising children The desire to pursue activities that would be hampered with having to take care of children Not wanting to pass on my genes when I have dozens of older cousins and a brother who almost all have children Not wanting to have a spouse or rely on a man for financial security (during my reproductive years at least), and not wanting to share my financial assets with a spouse The cost and quality of public education The "genetic roll of the dice"--I'd be more open to adopting an older child with an established personality and known medical issues rather than having my own Not wanting to go through childbirth or a C-section I have a mild phobia of newborns and pre-linguistic infants | Oct 20, 2011 3:04 PM |

Q1. If you were raised in a secular home and hold no religious beliefs today, what factors influenced your decision to be childfree?

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|----|---|----------------------|
| 83 | I don't particularly like children (though they tell me it's different if they're your own) and I don't enjoy being around them. I live in a community where kids are everything and the dominant religion puts great pressure on young people to marry ASAP and start having multiple kids immediately. I see how parents around me are struggling to juggle families and still hold on to their individuality and identity (and in most cases losing that battle and becoming depressed in the process). Many of the people I knew from school who became parents seem to be unhappy with that choice and give the appearance of having given up on life and grown old before their time. They seem to have no joy left. I did not and do not want that for myself. | Oct 20, 2011 3:03 PM |
| 84 | Nothing about parenting appealed to me. | Oct 20, 2011 3:02 PM |
| 85 | No interest in having children, it seems like a waste of the one life we have. | Oct 20, 2011 3:02 PM |
| 86 | N/A | Oct 20, 2011 3:02 PM |
| 87 | There is no connection between being CF and religion (for me) There are lots of things that my religion wants me to do, and I don't.... thi8s is just one! ;) | Oct 20, 2011 3:01 PM |
| 88 | Because kids suck. | Oct 20, 2011 2:56 PM |
| 89 | Less than stellar parents and childhood, overpopulation, did not want/didnt feel comfortable with responsibility of raising a child. | Oct 20, 2011 2:55 PM |
| 90 | Money, finding the right partner, time, i am not really that religious, just spiritual | Oct 20, 2011 2:55 PM |
| 91 | Don't like children, don't want to bring a child into this world, too noisy/expensive/smelly, love my own independence | Oct 20, 2011 2:53 PM |
| 92 | Medical issues - I was not going to pass on genetic diseases on to another person | Oct 20, 2011 2:52 PM |
| 93 | Economic, education, and emotional factors all contribute my decision to be childfree. | Oct 20, 2011 2:52 PM |
| 94 | My lifestyle is the reason I'm childfree. I don't feel my choice was religion-based at all. I'm married and we are financially capable of supporting a child, we just don't want kids because we like to be free. | Oct 20, 2011 2:52 PM |
| 95 | The economy, the environment(overpopulation), and having other financial goals | Oct 20, 2011 2:51 PM |
| 96 | I believe being childfree affords me greater flexibility in terms of finances, career, travel, and much more. And besides, I don't like children and don't believe I need to have any to a have a full life. Kids change everything, and I like things as they are now :) | Oct 20, 2011 2:51 PM |
| 97 | Not sure. I just didn't want the responsibility. Didn't have a particularly happy childhood. | Oct 20, 2011 2:50 PM |
| 98 | My father is Christian I'm not really sure if my mom is, she believes in god or some higher power but never really forced it on me. I was raised by my mom so my father's religion didn't really effect me much, I decided on my own when I was a teenager I didn't believe in any of it anymore and that was | Oct 20, 2011 2:50 PM |

Q1. If you were raised in a secular home and hold no religious beliefs today, what factors influenced your decision to be childfree?

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| | after I had already decided I didn't want kids long after. | |
| 99 | Working at a children's summer theatre program when I was 16. Also, I have witnessed too many women completely lose their identity once they became mothers. | Oct 20, 2011 2:49 PM |
| 100 | I would like to point out that the survey does not include Wicca or Paganism, which is my religion and just as valid as allllll others. | Oct 20, 2011 2:48 PM |
| 101 | No desire to have children. Want a fulfilling career in science | Oct 20, 2011 2:48 PM |
| 102 | (1) Overpopulation. (2) Complete lack of paternal instinct. (3) My religious surroundings: I grew up in Utah, and watched with alarm what my friends in huge families had to go through, and the arrogant attitude of the population regarding humanity's place in the environment. | Oct 20, 2011 2:48 PM |
| 103 | Fear of being a terrible parent and bringing and unwanted child into the world. | Oct 20, 2011 2:48 PM |
| 104 | To clarify questions 6 & 7: My "religious beliefs" are atheistic, and I feel my childfree lifestyle is completely accepted within the atheist community. Religion/spirituality has never been a part of my life. My family and I are "atheist," I suppose, in that none of us believe in gods/the supernatural, but it's not a subject we devote much time to discussing. My decision to be childfree was entirely biologically come by. At no point in my life has the idea of having children filled me with anything but revulsion, and that on a very basic, instinctual level. No other factors (philosophy, finances, society, etc.) have ever played a part. This is an interesting study; I look forward to reading about what you discover. | Oct 20, 2011 2:47 PM |
| 105 | Nothing to do with religion or spirituality or a lack thereof, being atheist myself. Childfree has been a choice out of respect for the immense responsibility being a parent is and my desire not to be a part of it. | Oct 20, 2011 2:47 PM |
| 106 | Children require far too much work. I enjoy my "me" time and doing things that I want to do. | Oct 20, 2011 2:46 PM |
| 107 | Not being able to ask if child wants to be born, overpopulation, not wanting to selfishly perpetuate genes and family name, dislike children in same way as some fear spiders and mice, every life results in a death and can't guarantee happiness | Oct 20, 2011 2:46 PM |
| 108 | Cost of living The fact that most parents seem to be really unhappy and bitter about being parents | Oct 20, 2011 2:45 PM |
| 109 | I don't really like kids. I think there is more than enough people in the world. I do not need to make anymore. | Oct 20, 2011 2:45 PM |
| 110 | Money, freedom (and lack thereof when you have children), the environment, the state of the world and the people in it | Oct 20, 2011 2:40 PM |
| 111 | Cost to have children, career, personality, genetic health | Oct 20, 2011 2:40 PM |
| 112 | Honestly? I find babies and children annoying/destructive and I have no desire to ever have them. I enjoy having free time and more money to enjoy life. I don't see having kids as 'a woman's duty'. it's not for everyone and I refuse to be guilt-tripped or pushed into it. | Oct 20, 2011 2:39 PM |

Q1. If you were raised in a secular home and hold no religious beliefs today, what factors influenced your decision to be childfree?

| | | |
|-----|---|-----------------------|
| 113 | Education and the realization of today and the futures economic, social, and environmental condition of the world. | Oct 20, 2011 2:39 PM |
| 114 | Even if I liked church, it's quite difficult to find a church that doesn't stress parenthood. Many churches in country are anti-choice and even anti-birth control. Some churches are pro-choice but still stress having children and involving children in so much of the church experience. I don't HATE kids, but I feel terribly excluded from the whole family and kid emphasis of modern churches. To be fair, there are bigger reasons I'm not religious, but even if I did have some religious belief, I would still feel very excluded at church and thus wouldn't attend. | Oct 20, 2011 2:38 PM |
| 115 | no factors. I knew by the time i was five i wasnt going to have children. in fact i didn't even like being a kid- all i wanted to do was grow up. | Oct 20, 2011 2:38 PM |
| 116 | The doctors told to my mother that she was sterile, juste after the birth of my brother... Few years later, I was born... I'm an accident... And I think seeing my mother work and do the housework (my father is too lazy to help her) are the factors which influenced my decision to be childfree. (sorry for my english ^^) | Oct 20, 2011 2:37 PM |
| 117 | I dislike children. I like our life the way it is, where we have peace and quiet, disposable income, time for our pets and each other, the choice to move or travel or start a business. Freedom! I also think the world is a pretty sad and despicable place, with all the bad things we have done to the planet, to animals, to each other. Bringing another human being into an already overpopulated and messed up world just does not make sense to me. | Oct 20, 2011 2:37 PM |
| 118 | My mum is atheist but raised us to make our own decision about what we believed. I am atheist. I do not wish to have children because I hate kids, don't want to give birth, and want to spend time travelling and having lots of money. | Oct 20, 2011 2:27 PM |
| 119 | No feeling of wanting kids or to be around them Genetics | Oct 20, 2011 1:40 PM |
| 120 | Most importantly, I don't have any desire to have a child and when I envision my ideal life it in no way includes having children. I was raised in a way that encouraged questioning authority and I think that allowed me to realize I don't want children despise cultural influences. | Oct 20, 2011 1:22 PM |
| 121 | just because i want | Oct 20, 2011 12:40 PM |
| 122 | Childhood friends got married and had children and I realized I wasn't jealous like I thought I would be, but instead felt sorry for them. It just seemed so foreign and alien to me, and I still considered us far too young (mid to late twenties) to be at that stage in life. That's when I started figuring it out. | Oct 20, 2011 12:22 PM |
| 123 | I could write a lot about this, but this was supposed to take only ten minutes so this is what I'll give you: 1. Reproduction is disgusting. 2. Keeping myself happy is hard enough. 3. I've only ever been able to connect emotionally to people the same age as me. | Oct 20, 2011 12:13 PM |
| 124 | Kids fucking suck. | Oct 20, 2011 12:05 PM |
| 125 | Kids are annoying and expensive | Oct 20, 2011 11:42 AM |

Q1. If you were raised in a secular home and hold no religious beliefs today, what factors influenced your decision to be childfree?

| | | |
|-----|---|-----------------------|
| 126 | Seeing what parents actually go through. | Oct 20, 2011 10:46 AM |
| 127 | I just had no interest in having children. I've never had any burning biological desire to be a mother. Also, I'm a logical thinker and I always weigh risk and reward in my decisions. I couldn't find anything in having children that would justify the financial, emotional and time commitments required to be a good parent. | Oct 20, 2011 10:06 AM |
| 128 | Gut feelings. Not wanting to feel trapped and resentful. I didn't love my own childhood and didn't want to give up my adult life. | Oct 20, 2011 9:51 AM |
| 129 | There is only one factor - I don't like them | Oct 20, 2011 9:44 AM |
| 130 | I don't like children. | Oct 20, 2011 9:22 AM |
| 131 | Home wasn't secular. My mother identified as Christian, but we rarely talked about religion in the home. My decision to be childfree is complicated, but primarily economic, political, and social factors played into the decision. | Oct 20, 2011 9:19 AM |
| 132 | I simply never wanted the burden of children. I feel no obligation to indulge a purely biological compulsion. | Oct 20, 2011 9:15 AM |
| 133 | There are two separate parts of my decision. First, I've always refused pregnancy (since I was eight y.o. at the latest), but I thought that "everybody is having children" and that I will obtain them through adoption, lesbian relationship or some kind of surrogate motherhood / artificial womb usage. But I've never had any reason for having kids beyond "beatifully dressing up my daughters and allowing them to wear makeup", so today I would sum my decision as "disinterest". I can't see any point in having children. I see it as "generally popular hobby I'm not interested in" (same as watching TV or drinking alcohol). | Oct 20, 2011 9:09 AM |
| 134 | Family medical history (physical and mental health), lack of desire to have children. | Oct 20, 2011 9:07 AM |
| 135 | Lack of desire, financial reasons, desire to keep my southern holes separate and intact | Oct 20, 2011 8:55 AM |
| 136 | I simply never had any desire to have them | Oct 20, 2011 7:35 AM |
| 137 | The desire to not devote the rest of my life to someone else's happiness while forsaking my own. | Oct 20, 2011 7:32 AM |
| 138 | I realized I didn't want a life time commitment to another living being. I have no desire for that responsibility. | Oct 20, 2011 6:50 AM |
| 139 | I have never had any interest in having children--I seem to be missing the internal drive to perpetuate my genes. My parents have never put pressure on me to have kids and accept my decision because it's what makes me happy. As a side note to clarify my parents religion as "other": Unitarian Universalism does not require belief in any specific deity or belief in the divinity of Jesus--it focuses on spirituality and social justice rather than any dogma. Although it's often lumped in with Christianity, it definitely isn't. | Oct 20, 2011 6:42 AM |
| 140 | Financial responsibility and independence. | Oct 20, 2011 6:27 AM |
| 141 | 1. A belief that there is more to life than obeying the evolutionary impulses to | Oct 20, 2011 6:24 AM |

Q1. If you were raised in a secular home and hold no religious beliefs today, what factors influenced your decision to be childfree?

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|-----|---|-----------------------|
| | procreate and pass on my genetic material. 2. The added social and financial responsibility/sacrifices inherent to parenthood. 3. A desire to achieve and enjoy as much as I can in my most active years. | |
| 142 | Economics, time management, genetic pre-dispositions, apathy. | Oct 20, 2011 6:21 AM |
| 143 | Looking forward at what I'd like to get out of my life, kids look like they'd be an 18+ year waste of my time. | Oct 20, 2011 6:17 AM |
| 144 | I don't like kids at all, or the thought of child birth, being pregnant, and anything else that goes along with the childed life. I enjoy my freedom and money as I see fit without having the burden of children to worry about. | Oct 20, 2011 5:21 AM |
| 145 | I don't like children, plus there are way too many people already on this planet. | Oct 20, 2011 4:42 AM |
| 146 | Genetics, life goals (traveling and career, not family), desire to avoid stress, money (can barely afford to support myself, let alone children), education level, health concerns (mental and physical) | Oct 20, 2011 4:35 AM |
| 147 | I just do not want the complicated life that children bring, I enjoy my freedom and do not want to make the problem of overpopulation worse than it is. | Oct 20, 2011 4:33 AM |
| 148 | The fact that I hate children is a big one! Plus wanting to actually have some disposable income. | Oct 20, 2011 3:35 AM |
| 149 | Kids are messy, time consuming, and require a huge sacrifice of personal freedom. Mostly I've just never felt the way most people seem to about babies and small children. | Oct 20, 2011 3:09 AM |
| 150 | I find children annoying, dirty, and expensive. I don't have any reasons to reproduce and I can't think of anything any good ones. | Oct 20, 2011 2:38 AM |
| 151 | This was always my personal feeling. I don't think I have the maternal gene. | Oct 20, 2011 1:37 AM |
| 152 | Global population, career, finances, time... | Oct 20, 2011 1:17 AM |
| 153 | Free thinking! :-) | Oct 20, 2011 12:48 AM |
| 154 | My guiding principle is - think carefully, act, and accept the consequences of your actions. So I thought carefully and decided to remain childfree. The life that I am leading as a result of this decision is better than I'd ever hoped. | Oct 20, 2011 12:35 AM |
| 155 | No benefit in having children. | Oct 19, 2011 11:28 PM |
| 156 | It's not right for me to risk passing on mental illness to someone who I'm supposed to love. Bipolar is terrible and I wouldn't want to do that to them. That and I just don't like kids. | Oct 19, 2011 11:17 PM |
| 157 | Money Complete lack of paternal instinct General dislike of dumb people (children are universally dumb) Disbelief that I should contribute to overpopulation General fear that EVERY DECISION I MAKE will impact somebody who has no power to change their lot in life Increase in freedoms | Oct 19, 2011 10:57 PM |
| 158 | I was raised in an absence of religion. It just never factored into my life one way or another until middle school when friends found out I didn't believe in god. My mom told me at one point that some people need religion and | Oct 19, 2011 10:17 PM |

Q1. If you were raised in a secular home and hold no religious beliefs today, what factors influenced your decision to be childfree?

others don't. I took away from that conversation that I don't need it. I also don't need children. I never really gave much thought about why I don't want kids... I just don't. And that's good enough for me. I could come up with all sorts of reasons to support that decision -- noise, time dedication, feeling unqualified, losing a sense of identity, all the things that are annoying about kids -- but it really all boils down to I don't want to and I don't really feel any need to have any special reasons to not have kids. It was the easiest decision of my life... so easy it wasn't even really a decision.

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| 159 | I chose to be childfree just because it felt right. There are too many burdens for me personally to have children and couldn't be happier that I will never have kids. | Oct 19, 2011 9:48 PM |
| 160 | There was no decision. See this is a problem. People assume we just "decide". I have no desire to have children, just like I have no desire to get a tattoo, or live in Chicago or new York. It wasn't a decision, it was just never part of my life. I never really thought about it, much less felt I had to come to a decision. I don't want kids so I don't have them, I don't want to be fat, so I work out, etc etc. | Oct 19, 2011 9:18 PM |
| 161 | Caring for mentally ill sibling Disgust for kids in general Parent's 'live and let live' upbringing | Oct 19, 2011 9:09 PM |
| 162 | Economy, politics, helped raise siblings and worked babysitting thus already any/all maternal instincts | Oct 19, 2011 9:04 PM |
| 163 | Cost, my career requires that I travel frequently, and they are fucking annoying. | Oct 19, 2011 8:25 PM |
| 164 | lifestyle choice | Oct 19, 2011 7:54 PM |
| 165 | Lack of interest in children/childbearing/childrearing. Desire to maintain an independent lifestyle. | Oct 19, 2011 7:53 PM |
| 166 | Freedome, Time to myself, personal space, financial stability. Overpopulation and limited resources. | Oct 19, 2011 7:16 PM |
| 167 | I have never made an active decision to be childfree, I just completely lack the desire to alter that particular default state. | Oct 19, 2011 7:15 PM |
| 168 | Personal disinclination toward having children, lack of wanting to be a parent, coupled with a desire for financial stability, and a desire to live "on my own schedule." | Oct 19, 2011 7:13 PM |
| 169 | Mostly monetary and environmental. | Oct 19, 2011 6:34 PM |
| 170 | Finical burden and time commitment to properly raise a child is too great for two working middle class people. Even as educated professions we feel the job market it too unstable to provide the security we would want while raising a child. | Oct 19, 2011 6:18 PM |
| 171 | I've always felt that women need to stand up for their rights and freedoms and choose their own paths instead of defaulting to motherhood as some kind of reason for being. I feel it is a cop-out. It's important to me to define myself first and foremost as a unique individual and not as a baby-making factory or a stay at home mom. | Oct 19, 2011 6:18 PM |

Q1. If you were raised in a secular home and hold no religious beliefs today, what factors influenced your decision to be childfree?

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| 172 | I dont like little kids all that much. Pregnancy and giving birth really gross me out, and I want to leave a legacy of friendships and accomplishments, not DNA. | Oct 19, 2011 6:12 PM |
| 173 | n/a | Oct 19, 2011 5:47 PM |
| 174 | A complete lack of desire to have any. | Oct 19, 2011 5:15 PM |