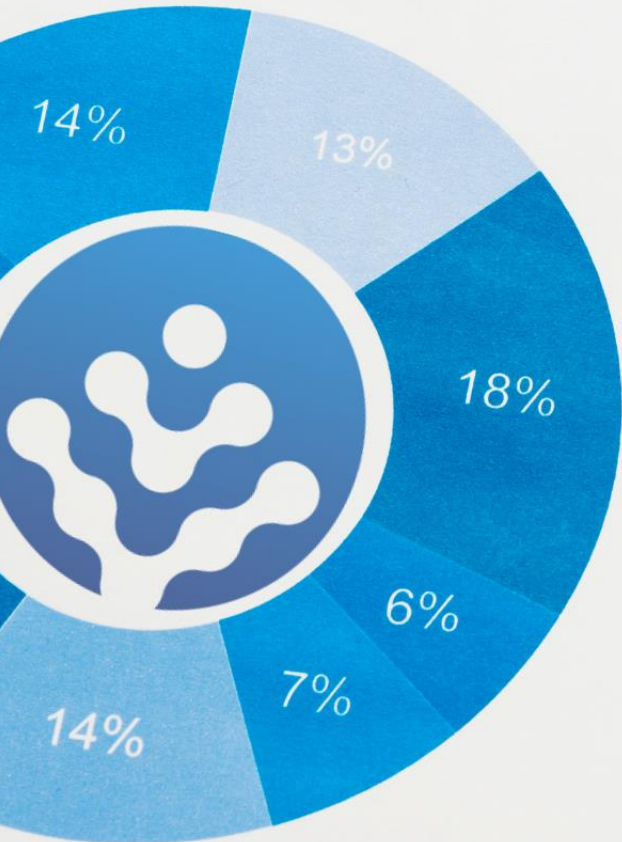


Survey of Demand for Chaplaincy

AMONG U.S. ADULTS



Survey of Demand for Chaplaincy among U.S. Adults¹

This report outlines the key findings of a survey conducted online March 2-23, 2022, among 1,096 adults with access to the internet. The margin of error for the full sample is plus or minus 3.29 percentage points.

The primary goals of the survey included learning how many people have interacted with a chaplain in recent years and, among those who have, what their experience with the chaplain was like.

Before answering any questions about chaplains, respondents were given explanatory text:

“The next few questions ask about chaplains. By ‘chaplains,’ we mean clergy or other religious guides or spiritual caregivers who serve people outside of churches or other houses of worship, in settings such as hospitals, the military, prisons, or institutions of higher education, to name a few examples.”

Respondents were then asked a series of questions to determine if and when they had ever interacted with a chaplain, including:

- “Over the past 12 months, has a chaplain assisted, counseled, or visited with you either in person or virtually?”
- If not in the past 12 months, “Has a chaplain EVER assisted, counseled, or visited with you, either in person or virtually?”
- “Thinking about the interaction with a chaplain that stands out the most in your mind, about how long ago did this interaction take place?”
- “In what context did your interaction with the chaplain take place?”

Contact with a Chaplain

<i>Chaplain has assisted, counseled, or visited with you...</i>	%	N
Ever	25	277
Never	75	819
	100%	1096

Notes: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 2-23, 2022. Q301; Q310; Q311. The “ever” category excludes respondents who initially told us they had interacted with a chaplain, but later told us that interaction took place in a church or house of worship. See Part 1 for further context.

¹ This survey was fielded by Gallup and funded by the Templeton Religion Trust as part of the “[Chaplains as Facilitators of Covenantal Pluralism](#)” project. Survey design was led by Jessica Hamar Martinez at the University of Arizona. Data was analyzed by Jessica Hamar Martinez and Amy Lawton at Brandeis University. We thank the [Advisory Board](#) for their important input during the design of the survey and the preparation of this overview report.

Using our definition of a chaplain, a quarter of U.S. adults (25%) have had a chaplain assist, counsel, or visit with them at some point in their lives. 14% of the population has interacted with a chaplain recently (defined throughout this report as within the past five years). Among the 75% who had never interacted with a chaplain, relatively few (6%) say there was a time when they would have liked to interact with a chaplain but could not do so.

Among those who had recently interacted with a chaplain, a large majority found the experience to be valuable, with 55% saying it was very valuable and 31% saying it was moderately valuable. Most people with recent interactions describe their contact with a chaplain as more helpful than harmful (83%), with only 7% reporting the inverse.

This brief report summarizes survey findings in four sections: the context and content of chaplain interactions; a description of those chaplains; missed opportunities (those who told us they would have liked to interact with a chaplain at some point but could not); and a brief demographic profile of respondents. Throughout this report, reported percentages are weighted and Ns are unweighted. All percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number and totals may not sum to 100.

We are currently conducting follow-up interviews with 50 survey respondents who interacted with a chaplain. Interview respondents are asked detailed questions about the chaplain they interacted with and the content of the interaction.

“Among those who had recently interacted with a chaplain, a large majority found the experience to be valuable...”

Part I: The Chaplain Interaction

Context of Interaction

<i>In what context did your interaction with a chaplain take place?</i>	Contact in past 5 years	Contact Ever
	%	%
Hospital/healthcare setting	38	40
Palliative care or hospice	10	10
Military service	8	11
Correctional facility	3	3
Disaster relief efforts	3	2
College/university	2	4
Police or fire department	2	1
Veterans Affairs	1	1
K-12 setting	0	3
Other	31	25
	100%	100%
	N=148	N=277
Notes: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 2-23, 2022. Based on those with chaplain contact outside of a church or other house of worship. Q400.		

Overall, 277 respondents reported ever having contact with a chaplain. In this section, we primarily discuss the subset of 148 respondents who reported having contact with a chaplain in the past five years. For respondents who had multiple interactions with chaplains, we asked them to focus on the interaction that stood out the most in their mind.

When calculating who had contact with a chaplain, we excluded those who reported that the context of their interaction with a chaplain was a church or another house of worship, as our definition of chaplain stipulated that the chaplain serves people outside of a congregational setting.² This analytical decision is reflected throughout the entire report.

The most commonly reported context for chaplain interactions was a hospital or other healthcare setting, where 38% of recent interactions took place. When we include those that took place in palliative care or hospice settings, almost half (48%) of all recent chaplain interactions took place in the context of medical care.

² The number of people who reported that they interacted with a chaplain in the context of a church or another house of worship was quite large – 204 respondents in total. Ongoing qualitative interviews suggest respondents have often mistaken a congregational leader for a chaplain. For example, some respondents described congregational leaders who the respondent knew from church but who the respondent happened to contact outside of church.

Smaller shares tell us their interactions with chaplains took place through military service (8%), in a correctional facility (3%), or in the context of disaster relief efforts (3%). Three in ten respondents with a recent chaplain interaction named some setting other than the provided response options, including mentions of meetings at home, on the phone, or in counseling. We caution that not all of these encounters in other settings are likely to be interactions with chaplains as defined above.

An open-ended question (Q444, not shown in a table) asked respondents what the main reason was for their interaction with a chaplain. Responses ranged from events that constitute the most common circumstances in which chaplaincy care is sought (e.g., hospitalizations, deaths, and needing personal support) to a few responses that suggest the respondent was thinking of a congregational leader, not a chaplain (e.g., Bible study with a “church leader”), even when interactions in a church were excluded from the analysis.

<i>How was your interaction with the chaplain initiated?</i>	Contact in past 5 years	Contact ever
	%	%
The chaplain initiated the contact	45	47
I requested the chaplain	24	21
The chaplain was recommended/referred to me	10	16
Other	21	15
No response	0	1
	100%	100%
	N=148	N=277
Notes: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 2-23, 2022. Q402.		

Of those who had contact with a chaplain in the past five years, respondents more commonly reported that the chaplain initiated the contact (45%) than that respondent had requested the chaplain (24%).

<i>In this interaction with a chaplain, were you:</i>	Contact in past 5 years	Contact ever
	%	%
Primary recipient of chaplain’s care or support	56	56
Visiting a friend, relative, or a loved one	45	40
Acting as a caregiver to a friend, relative, or loved one	39	32
A participant in a religious ceremony	20	18
An employee interacting with a chaplain in the course of your job	10	8
	N=148	N=277
Notes: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 2-23, 2022. Q412.		

Most respondents (56%) reported being the primary recipient of the chaplain’s care or support during their encounter with a chaplain, though many also reported that they were either visiting with a friend, relative or loved one (45%) or acting as a caregiver to someone (39%). One in five respondents indicated that they met a chaplain during a religious ceremony, such as a memorial or a wedding. Respondents were allowed to select multiple roles.

Value of Chaplaincy Interactions

<i>How valuable was your interaction with the chaplain?</i>	Contact in past 5 years	Contact ever
	%	%
Very valuable	55	44
Moderately valuable	31	32
Only a little bit valuable	10	17
Not at all valuable	3	7
	100%	100%
	N=148	N=277
Notes: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 2-23, 2022. Q405.		

Respondents overwhelmingly reported that it was valuable to interact with the chaplain, with 86% reporting that it was either “very” or “moderately” valuable.

Only 3% of those who had contact within the past five years reported that interacting with the chaplain was not valuable to them at all.

Harmful or Helpful

<i>Would you describe your interaction with the chaplain as:</i>	Contact in past 5 years	Contact ever
	%	%
More helpful than harmful	83	73
Neither helpful nor harmful	10	21
More harmful than helpful	7	6
	100%	100%
	N=148	N=277
Notes: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 2-23, 2022. Q410.		

Likewise, a large majority of respondents who had recently interacted with a chaplain reported that it was more helpful than harmful to interact with the chaplain (83%). Only 7% felt that their interaction with the chaplain was more harmful than helpful.

The survey did not contain questions that explored what constituted either help or harm, but the topics of help and harm are explored in the follow-up interviews.

Meaning of Chaplaincy Interactions

Respondents were asked whether the chaplain provided them or others with various types of support during their interaction. Large majorities of respondents said the chaplain provided support by listening to (91%) or praying with (91%) them or others, by giving spiritual or religious guidance (86%), and by providing comfort in a time of need (86%). Respondents were able to select multiple types of support.

<i>Please tell us whether the chaplain provided you or another person present during this interaction with support in any of the following ways:</i>	Total Yes (in past 5 years)	Yes, I received	Yes, another person present received	Yes, both I and another person present received	No
	%	%	%	%	%
Listened to you or others	91	48	10	34	8
Prayed with or for you or others	91	44	10	37	9
Gave spiritual or religious guidance	86	44	9	33	14
Comforted you or others in a time of need	86	42	8	36	13
Helped you or others navigate a conflict	41	20	6	15	59
Advocated for or with you	38	19	6	13	61
Facilitated a religious ritual(s)	31	11	10	11	69
Directed you or others to resources	25	14	6	6	75
Provided a religious object	22	6	4	11	78
	N=148				
Notes: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 2-23, 2022. Q415, Q416.					

Among respondents with recent contact with a chaplain, common topics discussed include dealing with loss (55%), the respondent’s mental or emotional health (54%), death and dying (53%), and dealing with change (52%).

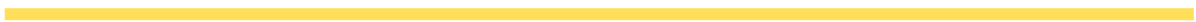
Less frequently discussed topics included relationship issues, though still roughly a quarter of respondents with recent chaplain contact discussed this (27%). The COVID-19 pandemic was a topic of discussion among 23% of respondents.

<i>Did you discuss any of the following topics with the chaplain?</i>	Contact in past 5 years	Contact ever
	% yes	% yes
Dealing with loss	55	50
Your mental or emotional health	54	53
Death and dying	53	53
Dealing with change	52	52
Passages from religious or spiritual texts	47	42
Family dynamics	43	40
The meaning of life	39	35
Your religious views	36	39
Your physical health	34	30
Moral or ethical concerns	31	33
Relationship issues	27	26
Coronavirus/pandemic*	23	n/a
	N=148	N=277

Notes: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 2-23, 2022. Q420.

* Discussion of the coronavirus pandemic as reported here is artificially low because the pandemic has only been a topic of discussion for two of the past five years. In the past 12 months, 38% of those who interacted with a chaplain discussed the pandemic.

“Chaplain interactions are overwhelmingly described in positive terms, with respondents calling chaplains compassionate...”



Part II: Describing Chaplains

<i>Would you describe the chaplain you interacted with as:</i>	Contact in past 5 years	Contact ever
	% yes	% yes
Compassionate	96	95
Knowledgeable	92	87
A good listener	91	91
Helpful	91	87
Trustworthy	91	90
Spiritual	90	89
Pushy	12	8
Intrusive	11	11
Condescending	7	7
	N=148	N=277
Notes: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 2-23, 2022. Q440.		

Chaplain interactions are overwhelmingly described in positive terms, with respondents calling chaplains compassionate (96% of recent contacts) and knowledgeable (92% of recent contacts). Respondents were able to select multiple attributes to describe the chaplain with whom they interacted.

<i>What was the chaplain's gender?</i>	Contact in past 5 years	Contact ever
	%	%
Female	21	16
Male	78	82
Other	<1	<1
Do not know	1	1
	100%	100%
	N=148	N=277
Notes: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 2-23, 2022. Q451.		

Far more respondents reported interacting with male chaplains (78% of recent interactions) than female chaplains (21% of recent interactions).

<i>Thinking again about your interaction with a chaplain, what was the chaplain's religion?</i>	Contact in past 5 years	Contact ever
	%	%
Protestant	54	51
Roman Catholic	18	21
Mormon	2	1
Orthodox Christian	0	0
Jehovah's Witness	2	1
Jewish	0	<1
Muslim	2	1
Buddhist	0	0
Hindu	0	0
Atheist	0	0
Agnostic	0	0
Something else	1	1
Nothing in particular	2	1
I don't know	20	22
	100%	100%
	N=148	N=277
Notes: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 2-23, 2022. Q450.		

54% of respondents reported that the chaplain they encountered in the past five years was Protestant, and 18% reported that their chaplain was Roman Catholic. As the term “chaplain” has Christian roots, this is perhaps unsurprising. Nevertheless, other traditions were represented.

20% of respondents reported that they did not know the religion of their chaplain. This suggests that in these interactions either the chaplain did not offer their own religious/spiritual identification or the respondent did not ask at the time.

<i>As far as you know, were the chaplain's religious beliefs similar to yours or different than yours?</i>	Contact in past 5 years	Contact ever
	%	%
Very similar beliefs	43	36
Somewhat similar	28	27
Somewhat different	6	11
Very different	10	11
Not sure/Don't know enough to say	13	15
	100%	100%
	N=148	N=277
Notes: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 2-23, 2022. Q443.		

A large majority of respondents (72%) reported that the chaplain they spoke with had either “very similar” (43%) or “somewhat similar” (28%) beliefs to them. Only a combined 16% reported that the chaplain had “somewhat different” or “very different” beliefs.

Part III: Missed Opportunities

<i>Has there been a time in the past 12 months or so when you would have liked to interact with a chaplain and couldn't?</i>	Interacted Ever	Interacted Never
	%	%
Yes	12	6
No	88	94
	100%	100%
	N=277	N=819
Notes: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 2-23, 2022. Q501.		

Respondents were asked if there had ever been a time when they would have liked to interact with a chaplain but could not do so. Of those who had ever interacted with a chaplain, 12% said that there was a time that they would have liked to interact with a chaplain but could not. Among those who had never interacted with a chaplain, only 6% said that they would have liked to at some time.

<i>Has there been a time in the past 12 months or so when you would have liked to interact with a chaplain and couldn't?</i>	Yes	No
	%	%
Religiously affiliated	87	66
Unaffiliated (atheist, agnostic, nothing in particular)	11	34
No response	1	<1
	100%	100%
	N=92	N=1004
Notes: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 2-23, 2022. Unaffiliated N=335, Affiliated N=758, No response N=3. Q501.		

Among those who said that there had been a time in the past 12 months when they would have liked to interact with a chaplain and could not, 87% were religiously affiliated and 11% were religiously unaffiliated (atheist, agnostic, or nothing in particular). Although this is a relatively small proportion, it does show some acknowledged need for chaplaincy or spiritual care among the unaffiliated.

<i>Please tell us whether any of the following were reasons that you were not able to interact with a chaplain:</i>		Interacted Ever	Interacted Never
		%	%
Limited interactions during the pandemic			
	Yes	50	62
	No	47	38
		100%	100%
Did not know where to find a chaplain			
	Yes	20	32
	No	80	68
		100%	100%
Reached out but the chaplain was not responsive			
	Yes	12	10
	No	88	89
		100%	100%
Did not know about chaplains			
	Yes	12	10
	No	88	89
		100%	100%
Another reason (open-ended response)			
	Yes	50	23
	No	50	77
		100%	100%
		N=38	N=54
Notes: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 2-23, 2022. Q502.			

Reasons for not interacting with a chaplain varied between those who had ever interacted and those who had never interacted, although these sample sizes are relatively small and any apparent differences should be interpreted with caution.

Both groups noted limiting their interactions during the pandemic at high rates, with 50% of those who had ever interacted with a chaplain citing the pandemic as something that prevented them from interacting with a chaplain and 62% of those who had never interacted with a chaplain citing this as their reason.

Comments given in response to “another reason” included: being busy, accessibility, lack of an existing relationship (either with a chaplain or a spiritual community), and antipathy towards religion.

<i>Among those who experienced ____ in the past 12 months, how many would have liked to interact with a chaplain during the past 12 months but were but were not able to?</i>	Yes	No		N
	%	%	%	
Death of a loved one	9	91	=100	323
Starting a new job	9	91	=100	205
A move/change in residence	15	85	=100	142
Losing a job	15	85	=100	83
Enrolling in college/university	16	84	=100	52
Birth/adoption of a child	17	83	=100	45
Getting married	17	83	=100	23
Getting divorced	25	75	=100	14
Notes: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 2-23, 2022. Q501, Q205.				

We examined the missed opportunities (those who would have liked to interact with a chaplain during the past 12 months but were unable to do so) by a list of life events that the respondents might have experienced in the last 12 months.

Of 323 respondents who reported experiencing the death of a loved one in the past 12 months, a low of 9% said that they would have liked to interact with a chaplain but were not able to in the same 12-month period.

This may indicate that chaplains are likely to be available in contexts of death and dying, thereby mostly meeting the needs of this population. Needs may be less well met in other times of crisis but the rapidly diminishing number of respondents who experienced each life event (see the right-most column) limits the generalizability of these findings.

A high of 25% of people who experienced a divorce in the past 12 months reported that they would have liked to interact with a chaplain but were not able to do so. However, only 14 people reported getting divorced in the past 12 months – a much smaller number than the 323 people who reported experiencing the death of a loved one.

It is unlikely that this finding could be generalizable. It is also possible that the high proportion of those who wanted to talk to a chaplain about either a marriage or a divorce may be an indication of some respondents who confused chaplains with congregational clergy.

“A high of 25% of people who experienced a divorce in the past 12 months reported that they would have liked to interact with a chaplain...”

<i>Among those who feel ____ (all of the time, most of the time, sometimes, hardly ever, never), how many would have liked to interact with a chaplain during the past 12 months but were not able to?</i>		Yes	No		N
		%	%	%	
Lonely or isolated from those around you					
	All of the time	18	82	=100%	33
	Most of the time	16	84	=100%	119
	Sometimes	10	90	=100%	418
	Hardly ever	4	96	=100%	347
	Never	3	97	=100%	176
You have people you can turn to for support					
	All of the time	5	95	=100%	409
	Most of the time	8	92	=100%	389
	Sometimes	11	89	=100%	213
	Hardly ever	15	85	=100%	63
	Never	9	91	=100%	22
Optimistic about your life					
	All of the time	7	93	=100%	141
	Most of the time	5	95	=100%	556
	Sometimes	11	89	=100%	312
	Hardly ever	16	84	=100%	70
	Never	0	100	=100%	17
Notes: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 2-23, 2022. Q501, Q280. The Ns for those respondents lacking social support are much smaller than the Ns for those with strong social support.					

It is possible that people who feel more socially isolated want to interact with chaplains more than people who feel less socially isolated.

18% of respondents who reported feeling lonely or isolated “all of the time” agreed that they would have liked to interact with a chaplain during the past 12 months but were unable to do so.

In contrast, only 5% of the respondents who have people they can turn to “all of the time” and only 7% of the respondents who are optimistic about life “all of the time” agreed that they would have liked to interact with a chaplain during the past 12 months but were unable to do so.

Part IV: Respondents

<i>What is your current religion, if any?</i>	All	Among those who Interacted with a Chaplain Ever
	%	%
Protestant	41	46
Roman Catholic	16	20
Mormon	2	<1
Orthodox Christian	1	<1
Jehovah's Witness	<1	2
Jewish	2	<1
Muslim	1	1
Buddhist	1	<1
Hindu	<1	0
Atheist	8	7
Agnostic	9	7
Something else	5	5
Nothing in particular	15	10
No response	<1	0
	100%	100%
	N=1096	N=277
Notes: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 2-23, 2022.		

The information in this section is provided as a description of how people who have interacted with a chaplain differ from the population as a whole. No causal relationships should be inferred.

The survey sample is largely Christian (about six in ten) or religiously unaffiliated (32% identifying as atheist, agnostic, or nothing in particular), with small shares identifying as Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist or Hindu.

Compared to all survey respondents, those who have ever had an interaction with a chaplain are somewhat more Protestant (46% compared to 41% of all respondents) and less unaffiliated (24% compared to 32% of all respondents).

<i>To what extent do you consider yourself a RELIGIOUS person? Are you...</i>	All	Among those who Interacted with a Chaplain Ever
	%	%
Extremely religious	5	6
Very religious	19	21
Somewhat religious	27	30
Not too religious	19	17
Not at all religious	30	25
	100%	100%
	N=1096	N=277
Notes: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 2-23, 2022.		

Respondents were asked the extent to which they consider themselves a religious person and, separately, the extent to which they consider themselves a spiritual person. Overall, 51% consider themselves to be at least somewhat religious, and 74% say they are at least somewhat spiritual.

About a quarter of respondents could be called “spiritual but not religious” – they say that they are at least somewhat spiritual but that they are not too or not at all religious.

<i>To what extent do you consider yourself a SPIRITUAL person? Are you...</i>	All	Among those who Interacted with a Chaplain Ever
	%	%
Extremely spiritual	13	15
Very spiritual	29	37
Somewhat spiritual	32	33
Not too spiritual	13	8
Not at all spiritual	13	7
	100%	100%
	N=1096	N=277
Notes: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 2-23, 2022.		

Those who have interacted with a chaplain are somewhat more likely than the entire group to say they are “very spiritual” (37% compared with 29% overall), but differences between the two groups on other answers largely fall within the margin of error.

<i>How important is religion in your life?</i>	All	Among those who Interacted with a Chaplain Ever
	%	%
Extremely important	21	25
Very important	20	23
Somewhat important	20	23
Not too important	15	13
Not at all important	24	17
	100%	100%
	N=1096	N=277
Notes: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 2-23, 2022.		

Six in ten respondents (61%) say religion is at least somewhat important in their lives, compared to 71% of those who had ever interacted with a chaplain.

<i>Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services, either in person or virtually?</i>	All	Among those who Interacted with a Chaplain Ever
	%	%
More than once a week	9	13
Once a week	16	17
Once or twice a month	7	8
A few times a year	10	13
Seldom	26	28
Never	31	22
	100%	100%
	N=1096	N=277
Notes: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 2-23, 2022.		

About a third of all respondents say that they attend religious services monthly or more. There are not many differences in levels of religious attendance between the entire sample and those who have ever interacted with a chaplain. The subset of respondents who have interacted with a chaplain are, perhaps, somewhat less likely to say they never attend religious services than the sample overall.

<i>In the last month, have you participated in religious services provided by a church, synagogue, mosque, or other house of worship, either in person or virtually?</i>	All	Among those who Interacted with a Chaplain Ever
	%	%
Yes, in person	22	25
Yes, virtually	8	10
Yes, both	6	7
No	64	58
	100%	100%
	N=1096	N=227
Notes: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 2-23, 2022.		

When asked about attendance in the most recent month specifically, 36% of respondents say they attended services in person or virtually, while 42% of those who had ever interacted with a chaplain reported attending services in the past month.

Sample Demographics			
		All	Among those who Interacted with a Chaplain Ever
		%	%
Race/Ethnicity			
	White	68	73
	Hispanic	17	14
	Black	13	12
	Asian	2	1
	Other	<1	1
Gender			
	Female	52	51
	Male	48	49
	Non-Binary	<1	0
Political Affiliation			
	Democrat	35	28
	Independent	29	32
	Republican	27	29
	Don't know	6	6
	Other party	2	3
	Missing	1	2
Military Service			
	No	88	80
	Yes	11	20
Region			
	South	37	41
	West	24	19
	Midwest	21	24
	Northeast	18	16
		N=1096	N=277
Notes: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 2-23, 2022.			

Compared to the overall sample, Hispanic respondents are perhaps slightly underrepresented among those who interacted with a chaplain. The overall sample is slightly more female than male, as is the subset who have interacted with a chaplain.

Democrats outnumber Republicans in the entire sample. Partisan differences among those who had ever interacted with a chaplain are likely within the margin of error.

Among those who reported ever interacting with a chaplain, 20% had also served in the U.S. military, compared to 11% in the entire sample. There are small regional differences between the entire sample and those who reported ever interacting with a chaplain.

Nearly all respondents (99%) say they rely at least a little on their own research when making major life decisions, including 82% who say they do so “a lot” (not shown). Large majorities also rely at least somewhat on advice from family (90%) or professional experts (80%). Smaller shares say they rely on prayer and religious reflection (61%) or advice from religious leaders (40%).

Respondents who have ever interacted with a chaplain report relying on prayer and religious reflection (72%) and advice from spiritual or religious leaders (49%) when making major life decisions at higher rates than the whole sample.

<i>% saying they rely either a lot or a little on each of the following to make major decisions...</i>	All	Among those who Interacted with a Chaplain Ever
	%	%
Your own research	99	99
Advice from family	90	92
Professional experts	80	87
Prayer and religious reflection	61	72
Advice from spiritual or religious leaders	41	49
Notes: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 2-23, 2022. Q260.		

Respondents tend to view the military, colleges and universities, and churches and religious organizations more positively than negatively, while the reverse is true when it comes to the healthcare system, the federal government, national news media, and large corporations.

<i>% saying they have a positive view of...</i>	All	Among those who Interacted with a Chaplain Ever
	%	%
The military	53	62
Colleges and universities	40	39
Churches and religious orgs	40	47
The healthcare system	27	34
The federal government	15	14
National news media	13	10
Large corporations	9	10
Notes: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 2-23, 2022. Q265.		

Respondents who have had contact with a chaplain hold positive views of the military, churches and religious organizations, and the healthcare system at higher rates than the entire sample.

“Respondents tend to view the military, colleges and universities, and churches and religious organizations more positively than negatively...”

Roughly half of respondents (53%) reported feeling lonely or isolated from those around them at least sometimes, though the vast majority say they have people they can turn to for support (91%) and feel optimistic about their life (93%) at least sometimes.

On these measures of social support, there are very few differences between those who have ever interacted with a chaplain and those who have never interacted with a chaplain.

<i>How often, if ever, do you feel...</i>	All of the time	Most of the time	Some-times	Hardly ever	Never	No answer
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Lonely or isolated from those around you	3	11	39	32	15	<1
<i>Ever interacted with a chaplain</i>	2	9	40	33	16	<1
<i>Never interacted with a chaplain</i>	3	11	39	31	15	<1
You have people you can turn to for support	36	36	19	6	2	0
<i>Ever interacted with a chaplain</i>	36	40	19	4	1	0
<i>Never interacted with a chaplain</i>	37	35	20	6	3	0
Optimistic about your life	13	51	29	6	2	0
<i>Ever interacted with a chaplain</i>	13	53	28	5	2	0
<i>Never interacted with a chaplain</i>	13	50	29	7	2	0
Notes: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 2-23, 2022. Q280.						

Most respondents say it is at least somewhat important to them to belong to a community of people who share their values and beliefs. Among those who have ever interacted with a chaplain recently (in the past five years), the rate is noticeably higher, with 60% of people saying it is “very” or “extremely” important to belong to a community with shared values, compared to 45% of the whole sample.

<i>How important, if at all, is it to you to belong to a community of people who share your values and beliefs?</i>	All	Among those who Interacted with a Chaplain in Past 5 Years
	%	%
Extremely important	16	25
Very important	29	35
Somewhat important	35	31
Not too important	13	6
Not at all important	6	4
	100%	100%
	N=1096	N=148
Notes: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 2-23, 2022. Q275.		



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