

Love, Marriage and Religion: An Initial Snapshot of the UCSB Survey in Egypt, Iran, Tunisia and Turkey

Over 15,000 respondents have taken our anonymous web-based survey either through Facebook or the blogosphere in Egypt, Iran, Tunisia or Turkey. As promised we want to give our respondents an initial snapshot of their responses. The tables below show the results by country. The respondents are overwhelmingly younger people, more than two-thirds between the ages of 18 and 33.

		Country				Total
		Tunisia	Iran	Turkey	Egypt	
Age in aggregated categories	19-23	40.4%	15.0%	43.6%	51.4%	38.9%
	24-28	25.9%	31.2%	18.9%	42.1%	31.3%
	29-33	13.8%	30.0%	11.8%	4.4%	14.0%
	34-38	9.4%	11.2%	8.5%	1.1%	6.8%
	39-43	4.8%	5.4%	6.4%	.6%	3.8%
	44-48	3.1%	3.4%	4.5%	.1%	2.5%
	49-52	1.6%	2.1%	2.9%	.1%	1.4%
	53-62	.9%	1.1%	2.8%	.1%	1.1%
	63-72	.1%	.4%	.7%	.0%	.3%
Count		3546	3597	3043	5259	15445

Given the sensitive nature of the questions, we worried that women would be less likely to take the survey. In fact, overall half of the respondents were women.

		Country				Total
		Tunisia	Iran	Turkey	Egypt	
Gender	Male	49.9%	51.9%	39.7%	56.2%	50.5%
	Female	50.1%	48.1%	60.3%	43.8%	49.5%
Count		3751	3614	3122	5386	15873

About one quarter to half of the respondents are current students in higher education, either as undergraduates or postgraduates.

		Country				Total
		Tunisia	Iran	Turkey	Egypt	
Are you currently a student?	Not a student	59.4%	41.4%	63.5%	42.2%	50.4%
	Yes, Secondary school	10.1%	.7%	4.9%	3.3%	4.7%
	Yes, Technical School	2.1%	.4%	2.2%	1.6%	1.6%
	Yes, Seminary or Religious Educational Institution	.7%	.1%	1.0%	.4%	.5%
	Yes, College or university	20.9%	21.9%	25.6%	41.4%	29.2%
	Yes, Post-Graduate school	6.9%	35.5%	3.0%	11.1%	13.7%
Count		3601	3201	2948	5216	14966

That they are highly educated does not mean they are secular. Quite the contrary: If we look at the total sample, two thirds believe the Quran is the inspired word of God and is true in all ways.

		Gender		Total
		Male	Female	
Do you believe the holy book of your faith is the inspired word of God?	Yes, it is true in all ways, and to be read literally, word for word.	71.6%	72.0%	71.8%
	Yes, it is true in all ways, but not always to be read literally; its meaning can be reinterpreted for each generation	17.6%	17.3%	17.4%
	Yes, it is true primarily about religious matters, but may contain errors about other things.	4.2%	3.8%	4.0%
	No, it is not the inspired word of God.	6.7%	7.0%	6.8%
Count		4812	4924	9736

Almost half of all the single respondents are involved in a relationship right now.

		Country				Total
		Tunisia	Iran	Turkey	Egypt	
Are you involved in a relationship right now?	Yes	50.4%	41.5%	43.7%	47.2%	46.2%
	No	49.6%	58.5%	56.3%	52.8%	53.8%
Count		2609	2212	1873	4128	10822

And half of those who are involved in relationships describe themselves as being in love right now.

		Country				Total
		Tunisia	Iran	Turkey	Egypt	
In love right now	No	46.1%	44.1%	57.5%	38.4%	45.4%
	Yes	53.9%	55.9%	42.5%	61.6%	54.6%
Count		1805	1917	1624	2580	7926

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Updates and additional information at: <http://www.survey.ucsb.edu/lmr.php>