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Lancashire Early Intervention Service
Hope – Health – Recovery

How Common Is It To Have Unusual Beliefs?



Hope Recovery
Health

www.hope-health-recovery.org.uk
Email: info@hope-health-recovery.org.uk

Research

Research has suggested that the following percentages of British adults expressed belief in various unscientific phenomena (Cox and Cowling, 1989):

- 60% Believe in God
- 50% Believe that thoughts can be transferred between two people
- 50% Believe in the possibility of predicting that something good is going to happen before it does.
- 25% Believe in ghosts
- 25% Believe in superstitions
- 25% Believe in reincarnation
- 23% Believe in horoscopes
- 21% Believe in the devil
- 10% Believe in "Black Magic"

American research has suggested that the following percentages of American adults expresses belief in various unscientific phenomena (Gallup and Newport, 1991):

- 25% Believe in telepathic experiences
- 25% Believe in ghosts
- 10% Believe they have seen or been in the presence of a ghost
- 10% Believe they have talked to the devil
- 14% Believe they have seen an unidentified flying object (UFO)