



# 2011 Paranormal Survey Report

*INCLUDING*

**How  
Paranormal Experiences  
Impact  
Our Lives**

*Discover what 3,000+ people  
are saying about their own  
paranormal encounters*

**October 2011**

**Rosemary Breen**

*Sponsored by*

  
**Psychic Revolution**

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## NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

Hello

While it is still too early to say that the paranormal has gone mainstream, for those who experience it on a regular basis the paranormal is already a fundamental part of their lives.

Our online paranormal survey started in 2006 and it has remained open virtually uninterrupted since that time. This report is, however, the first time our findings have been released to the public.

We now anticipate we will update the results of our survey annually and, as the body of data grows, it's likely that a clearer picture of paranormal phenomena and their patterns of occurrence will emerge. So, in effect, this first report is the benchmark against which parapsychological future data will be measured.

In addition to the statistics on paranormal encounters in this report, there are also insights into how those who experience the paranormal in their daily lives are affected by and respond to these happenings.

So, if you're a paranormal experient, paranormal consultant, parapsychologist or even a paranormal website owner you'll find something of interest in the following pages.

This reports contains the results of, what I believe is already, the largest online paranormal survey ever conducted. The completed questionnaires are what we describe as 'data-rich'.

The aim of this survey is to address three specific research questions:

- What types of paranormal experiences are people reporting and how often are they experiencing spontaneous parapsychological phenomena?

- How do paranormal experiences impact on those who experience it?
- What meaning do those who experience the paranormal put on their encounters?

Essentially, we have set out to uncover the who, what, where, how often, and from when of paranormal experiences.

In the first year of our survey, more than 3,000 respondents answered our call to give us their insights into their encounters with psi and, we believe, you won't find this type of information so readily accessible anywhere else on the Net.

I hope you enjoy the report!

If you find it valuable please let your peers know about it.

You can find the original page for this report at [2011 Paranormal Activity Analysis](#).

If you want to participate in the study, the link is here at [Paranormal Phenomena](#).

Cheers

**Rosemary Breen**

CEO, PsychicRevolution.com

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On the following pages, you'll discover:

## **The top 10 types of paranormal phenomena reported:**

We analyse 3,100+ questionnaires completed by people who report they've encountered at least one type of paranormal experience

## **The gender gap:**

We reveal which types of paranormal encounter are experienced more by women than men

## **The differences between countries:**

Which of the four major countries surveyed experiences more paranormal encounters and which country is under-represented when it comes to psi?

## **Why near-death episodes need to be taken more seriously:**

Not all NDE are pleasant and life affirming. For some experiencers their experience is traumatic

## **When paranormal encounters start:**

Find out which types of paranormal phenomena start early in life and which tend to be experienced at an older age

## **Paranormal Experiences are not one-offs:**

Discover which paranormal experiences happen over and over again

## **Who uses paranormal consultants:**

Find out what those who experience the paranormal think about SERIOUSLY seeking help from a psychic, clairvoyant, tarot card reader or palm reader

## **What impact the paranormal has on people:**

Is the paranormal more a natural part of life to be encouraged or something to avoid?

## **Three recurring themes:**

Discover which three explanations participants use to explain their paranormal abilities

# MAJOR FINDINGS

Here's a brief overview of our first survey report:

## Overall Paranormal Experiences are:

- life affirming
- reported by more women than men
- are often experienced from a very early age
- likely to differ between nations, and
- encountered throughout life but certain paranormal experiences tend to dominate at different stages

## Quantitative Findings

- 90% of the overall survey participants report experiencing at least one type of paranormal encounter
- The most commonly reported phenomenon is deja vu, which was noted by 85% of the participants
- 75% of paranormal experiencers experience premonitions, apparitions (64%), telepathy (63%), out-of-body experiences (53%), reincarnations (41%), psychokinesis (35%), auras (32%), and mediumship (24%)
- The least frequently reported type of paranormal experience is near-death episodes which was noted by only 14% of the survey participants
- Notably, more women report experiencing every type of paranormal encounter
- The trend is for paranormal experiencers to have multiple experiences of the same type of phenomena
- On average paranormal experiencers report having five types of encounters
- There are marked variations in the level of paranormal phenomena

reported by residents of the four major contributing countries, with indications being that Canada dominates statistically in most categories

- At least one in ten of every first paranormal encounter occurs before the age of six years
- For eight of the ten types of paranormal experiences surveyed, 30% of all first encounters takes place before adolescence and, more than 50% of all first experiences are experienced before adulthood (18 years) is reached. [The two exceptions are auras and mediumship.]

### **Qualitative Findings**

- Nearly 70% of all survey respondents agree with the statement 'the paranormal has existed for so long that it should be investigated'
- 70% of paranormal experiences answered YES to the question 'has your experience of the paranormal changed your attitude to life?' The biggest effects noted are on 'myself', my attitude to 'life after death', the 'whole meaning of life question' and 'my attitude to death itself'
- While most experiences regard the paranormal as a positive influence in their lives, some associate their experiences with abuse and trauma, and feelings such as loneliness, isolation, and a sense of being different

### **Summary**

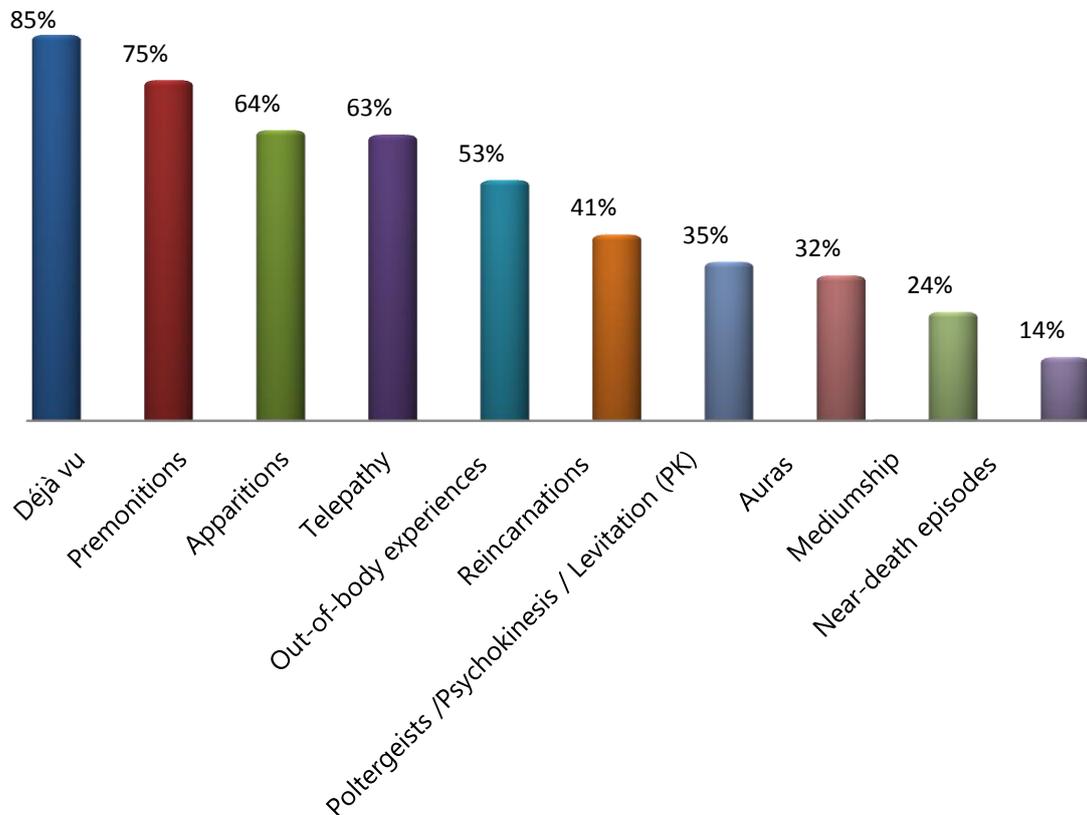
This is just a taste of what's in this report. On the following pages you'll find more information and charts that visually convey some of the intriguing findings of this survey.

## 7 UNANSWERED QUESTIONS THAT NEED ADDRESSING

- Do women really experience the paranormal more than men? Or are they just more likely to report their experiences?
- Why are certain paranormal encounters namely deja vu, premonitions, auras, mediumship, and telepathy likely to be experienced many more times than other phenomena?
- Are there really major differences in the frequency of paranormal experiences between countries and, if so, why?
- Why do certain phenomena (e.g. mediumship and auras) tend to be experienced for the first time later in life?
- Is there such a thing as sex-linked inheritance which connects paranormal abilities with being female?
- How widely experienced are pre birth episodes of near-death episodes?
- Given that more than half of the first encounters of eight of the ten phenomena surveyed occur in childhood, what are we doing to support the youngest members of our communities?

## THE TOP 10 PARANORMAL PHENOMENA

The most commonly reported paranormal phenomenon is déjà vu. This is followed by premonitions, apparitions, telepathy, out-of-body experiences, reincarnations, psychokinesis, auras, mediumship, and understandably, the least frequently indicated experience is near death episodes.



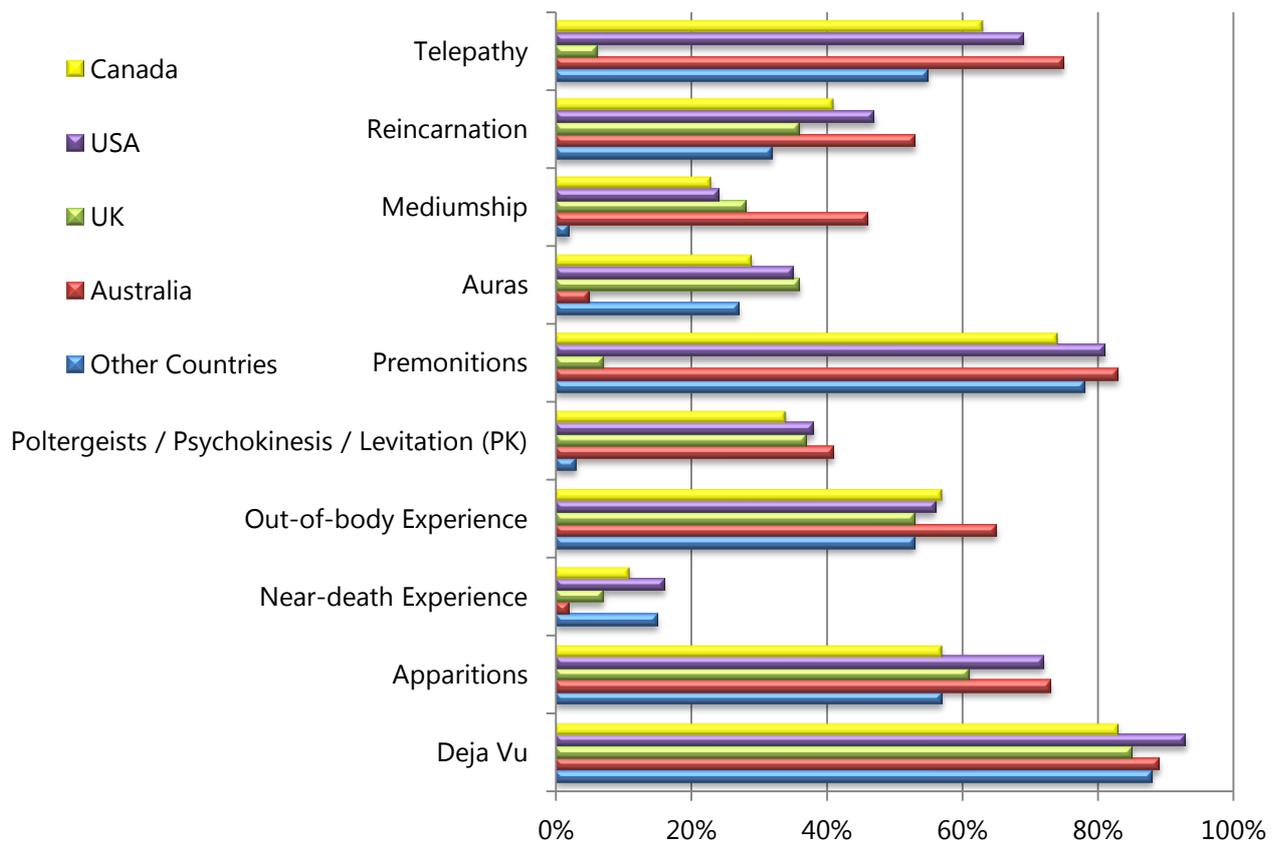
Percentage of Participants Who Experienced Each Type of Paranormal Experience

## THE GENDER GAP

More women than men experience each of the ten types of the paranormal phenomena examined. Statistically, this is likely to be a good approximation to what is actually happening in life (with the exception of psychokinesis and near-death experiences, which are too close to call).

*'There is absolutely nothing wrong with my mental faculties – nor any of my family. I suspect that the millions of other people worldwide who have had the same kinds of experiences would say the same. We can't all be wrong.'*

## MAJOR DIFFERENCES BETWEEN COUNTRIES



### Incidence of Paranormal Experience Reported by Country

While United States dominates the survey in terms of numbers (1,979 participants), when it comes to individuals reporting paranormal phenomena it is the Canadians (228 paranormal experiences) who rank highest in nine of the ten categories of experience.

At the other end of the scale, Australians report the lowest incidence of any major country for five of the paranormal categories namely psychokinesis, auras, mediumship, reincarnation, and telepathy.

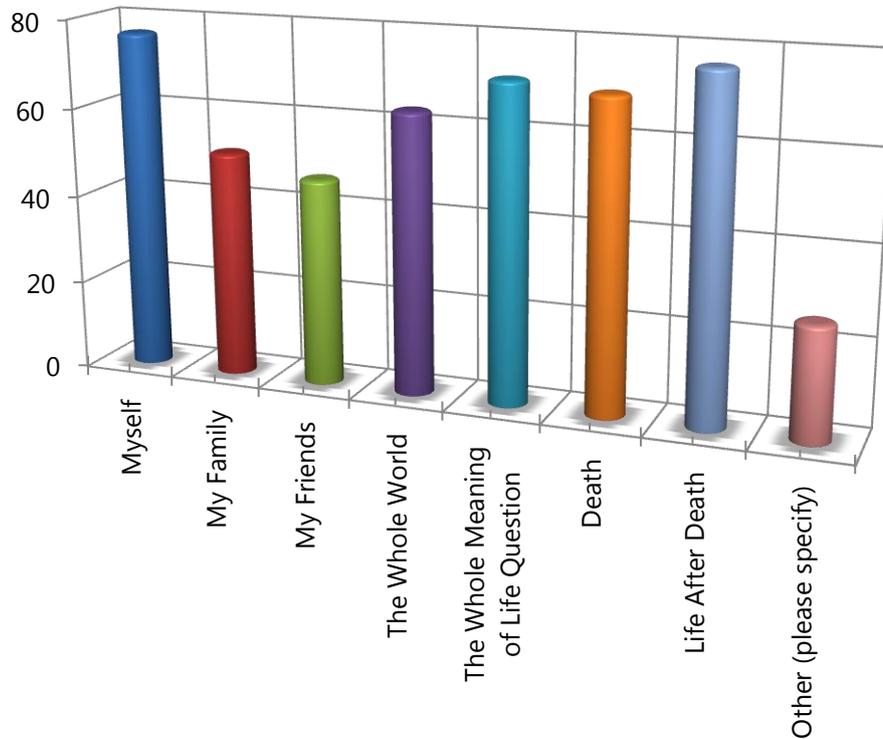
So, are Canadians really more attuned to the paranormal and have their Antipodean friends missed the boat altogether? More research is required.

'To survive the abuse (which was ongoing), I learned to leave my body and watch from the ceiling. The ability to have an out-of-body experience at will seemed to tip me over into a more permeable, open state of consciousness (sic).'

## THE IMPACT OF THE PARANORMAL

When asked how experiencing the paranormal has affected their lives people noted that it impacted on:

Percentage of Experiencers Who Chose Each Option



Impact of Paranormal Experiences on Attitudes (multiple answers allowed)

## WHY NEAR-DEATH EPISODES SHOULD BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY

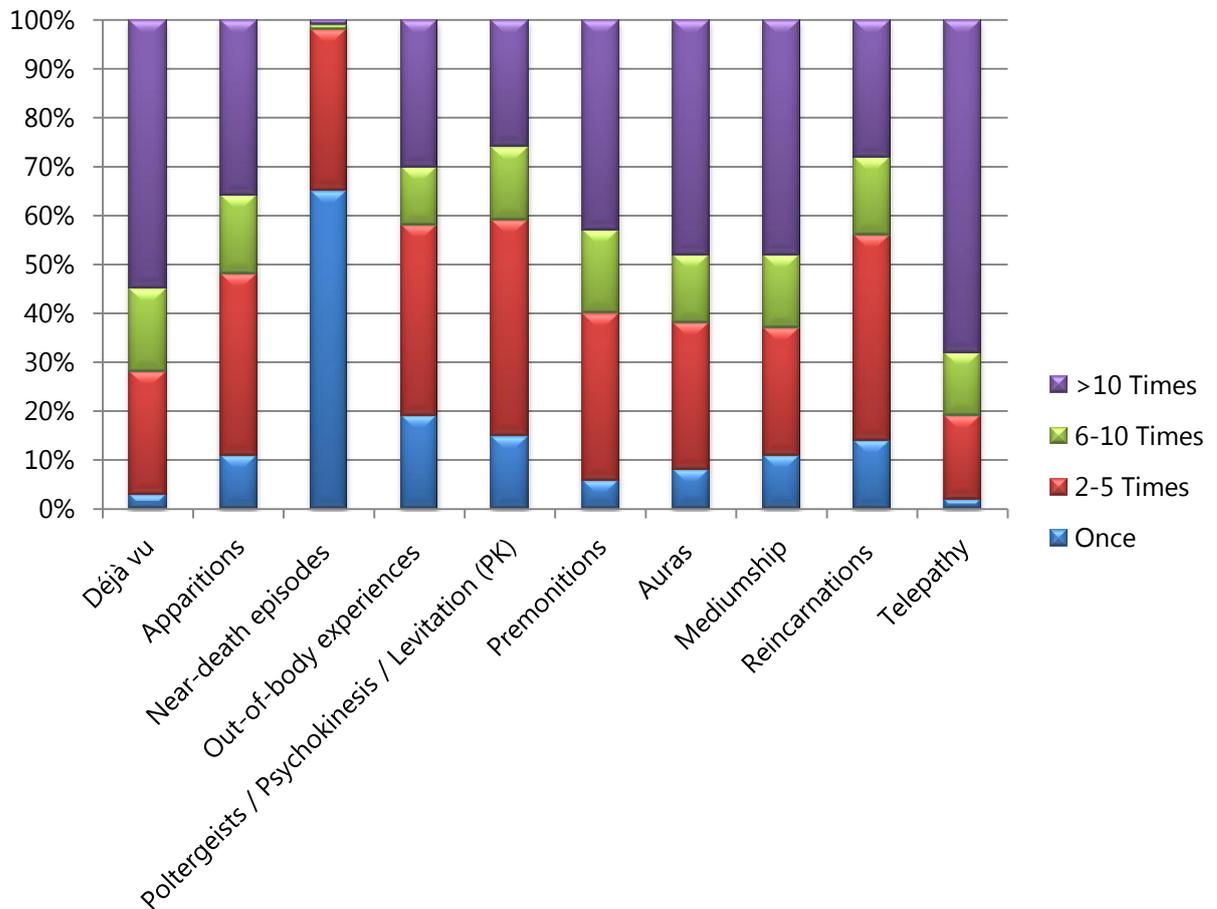
The largest single description chosen by those who report a NDE is 'pleasant'. The second largest group of experiencers are those who indicate that their NDE encounter was 'distressing'.

Thus, not all paranormal experiences are positive, life affirming encounters. In fact, many people said they did not want to return to living.

Nearly 20% of the people who experienced a NDE have been traumatised by their experience. Their descriptions include words like 'scary', 'frightening', 'alarming', 'horrendous', 'extremely painful' and even 'frustrating'. NDE needs to be taken seriously and more openly enquired about and discussed.

Of particular interest are the pre birth episodes of NDE. Twenty three people indicate that they had experienced an NDE before birth. Very little research has been done on this aspect of near-death episodes and in part, this may be because of the contentious nature of the issue and its broader implications.

## HOW OFTEN DO PARANORMAL EXPERIENCES HAPPEN?

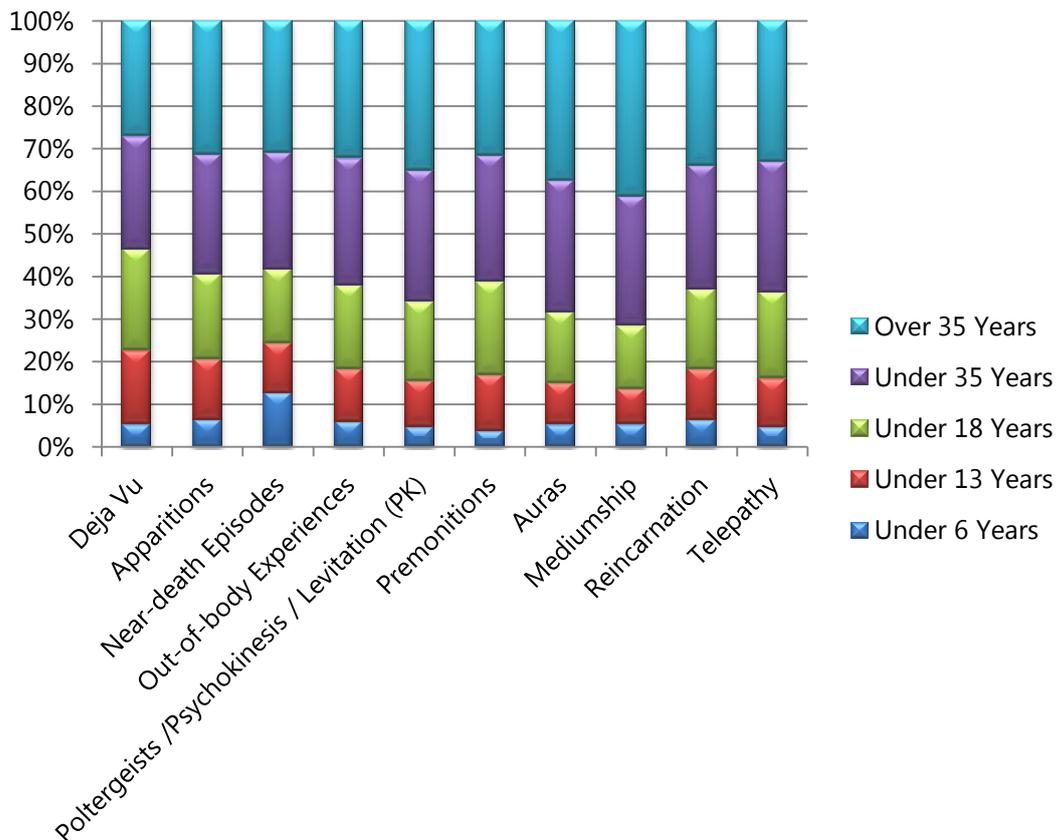


With the exception of near-death episodes, which most experienced only once, the trend is for déjà vu, apparitions, premonitions, auras, mediumship, and telepathy to be experienced more than five times.

This is the case across all adult age groups.

"The force runs strong in my family as we all joke. Five generations of women passed these gifts down genetically. I suspect because of that some of the stuff I saw and experienced as a child was not dismissed like with other children who get told to stop being silly etc. I never fitted in to the 'normal' roles as a child and so gave up long before I went to school and felt inclined to want to fit in."

## WHEN DO PARANORMAL ENCOUNTERS BEGIN?



### Cumulative Totals By Age at First Experience

Over a quarter of all first experiences (of nine of the ten phenomena surveyed) happen early in life - before experiencers reach adolescence.

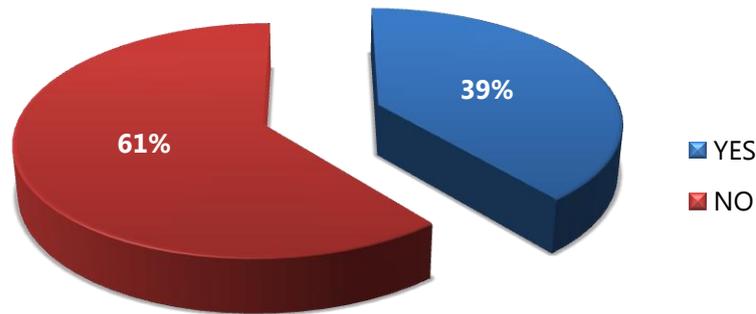
The exception to this trend is mediumship.

The survey also uncovers reports of first encounters happening very early in life, and although this number is small, nonetheless the results indicate that people are having their first introduction to the paranormal before the age of two.

*'I am of sound mind, and am not prone to flights of fancy - or delusion! - I will state quite categorically, that there is some remarkable evidence available that needn't involve anything other than an open mind to investigate the sensible alternative to the 'once you are dead, you are dead' mentality. I am not interested in 'New Ageism' or other associated deviations from good, honest truth!'*

## WHO USES PARANORMAL CONSULTANTS?

Experiencers were asked 'have you ever SERIOUSLY sought information or help from a psychic, clairvoyant, tarot card reader or palm reader?'



## 3 THEMES THAT NEED INVESTIGATING

There are three recurring themes that people turn to when explaining why they experience the paranormal.

Specifically, these are connected in some ways and they are the importance of ethnic groups, genetics, and the female bloodline.

For some, it's clear that familial ties and genes, in particular, are the source of their own parapsychological encounters. The survey is dotted with statements like 'it runs in the family', 'close family bond', 'runs in our blood', 'a family history of such things', 'inherited quality', 'from a line of psychic people', 'my family is like this' and, '5 generations of women passed these gifts down genetically'.

Other paranormal experiencers turn to their ancestral lineage as the reason for their own paranormal experiences. Two ethnic groups dominate these accounts, namely the Celts and the Native Americans.

Numerous participants also mention specifically their female lineage and they associate it with their own paranormal encounters. Their accounts are littered with comments like 'I know I born with psychic abilities and it is something that is carried in my family blood line, mainly from female to female', 'I think the females of my family experience strange things', and 'the women in my family have strange abilities'.

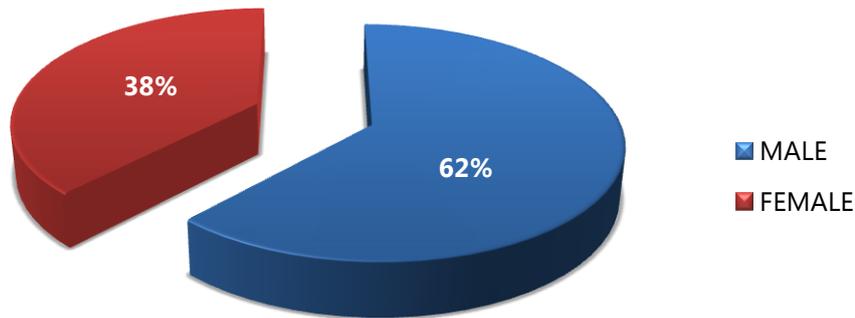
'I have since done some genealogy work and discovered that my family line comes from a long line of seers and healers. Our brains work differently from others and I believe we can connect to the earth and all life that is on it on a different level than most people. My daughters are the same, although we have all reached these thoughts and feelings separately.'

# SURVEY PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS

## Survey Participants

Women (62%) outnumber men in the survey.

On average, each female experiences six of the ten types of paranormal phenomena surveyed. This was significantly higher than the average for men, which was four.

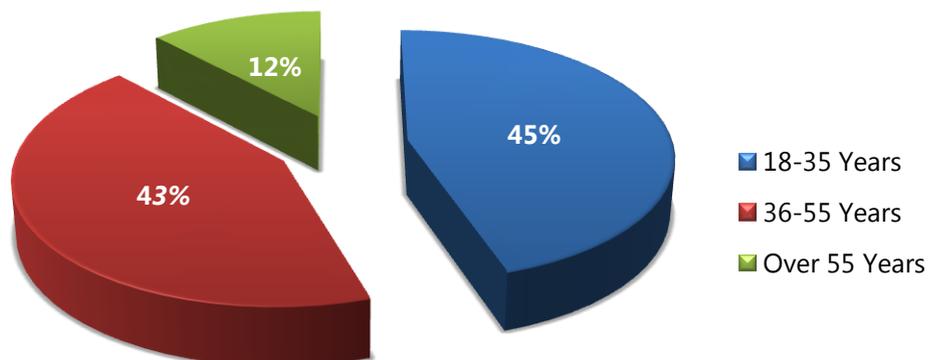


## Paranormal Experiences by Gender

### Age of Participants

Only survey participants who are 18 years and over are included in this report.

In this survey, most paranormal experiences are either in the age brackets 18 to 35 years (45%) and 36 to 55 years (43%). The remaining participants are over 55 years.



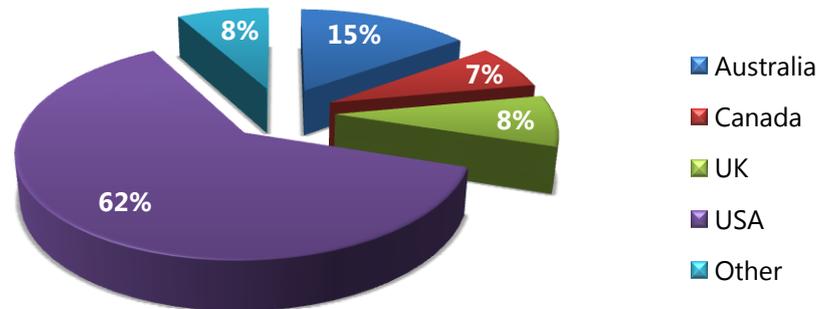
## Survey Experiences by Age Group

*'It is normal to experience the paranormal. It is something that has been passed down through the centuries from the women. we have a few men who experience it, but not many.'*

## Country of Residence

The survey is written in English and understandably this affects the results.

More than half of the paranormal experiencers are residents of the United States of America. The second largest number of contributors are from Australia and together, residents of the United Kingdom and Canada comprise 30% of the sample.



## Country of Residency

In addition to the four major contributing nations, there are another 55 other countries represented in the survey.

*'Here are some guesses. I am of Native American and Irish heritage. Both of those cultures have traditions of shamanism & paranormal stuff happening to folks. Perhaps if it is such a desired or admired trait in those cultures, it got selectively bred into folks.'*

*'I grew up in a very open, supportive and loving family. My mother is the wisest, most intelligent person I know, and has spent much of her life learning about all aspects of the spirit world, and world religions, and spiritual growth. My siblings and I were always very curious, and peppered her with many questions about all of these things. So, from a very young age, I knew about psychic phenomena, and understood it.'*

## DEFINITIONS

**Apparitions** - another name for ghosts

**Auras** - fields of luminous radiations said to surround living bodies

**Deja vu** - French for the feeling or illusion of having previously experienced an event or place actually being encountered for the first time

**Mediumship** - the act of linking to the spirit world to provide evidence for life after death or to pass on spiritual guidance

**Near Death Episode - NDE** is the term applied to experiences undergone by persons who either seem to be at the point of death (or who are even formally declared dead) but then recover, or who narrowly escape death (as in a motor car accident) without being seriously injured

**Out of Body Experience** - OBE is an experience in which one's centre of consciousness is located outside the physical body

**Psychokinesis** - a paranormal action in which the mind impacts a physical system e.g a poltergeist (a disturbance characterized by bizarre physical effects of paranormal origin, suggesting mischievous or destructive intent)

**Precognition** - is a premonition or a feeling that something is about to happen especially something ominous or dire

**Reincarnation** - a form of survival in which the human soul, or some aspects of self, is, after death reborn into a new body, this process being repeated throughout many lives

**Telepathy** - the paranormal receiving of information concerning the thoughts, feelings or activity of another (also known as ESP)

## ABOUT ROSEMARY BREEN

Here's what some people are saying about Rosemary and the Psychic Revolution community.

'I just want to say how warm, comforting, and compassionate all of you are in your exchanges. The Internet can sometimes be a rough place, especially with the anonymity of all. But you three refute any of that...'

'Rosemary, you have offered me such an interesting, informative response. You've given me a lot of time, and I appreciate it all. I love your final paragraph; it is positive and encouraging and without judgment...'

'Rosemary is an excellent communicator who values the internet to develop networks, and she is always willing to share her ideas collaboratively. Rosemary's attention to detail, persistence in completing projects and passion for psychic phenomena, has enabled her to generate a new position as CEO of Psychic Revolution.'

Rosemary is the founder of [PsychicRevolution.com](http://PsychicRevolution.com) the online site that is a natural extension of her academic research on the paranormal.

The subject of Rosemary's thesis is: The Nature, Incidence, Impact, and Integration of Spontaneous Paranormal Experiences and her dissertation was based on an online survey, which is also the subject of this report.

The survey is live and it continues to gain a lot of support worldwide. To date, nearly 10,000 surveys have been lodged.

The paranormal survey is cited on Wikipedia and Rosemary intends to leave it open indefinitely with the aim of building the largest database of spontaneous paranormal experiences ever collated.

### To Contact Rosemary

Follow on: Twitter at [PsychicRevolutn](#)

Link to her at: LinkedIn: [Rosemary Breen](#)

