

# SPOTLIGHT: Persecuted (or Paranoid) at Work



Feeling ignored at work? Denied a raise without reason? Are you the target of derogatory comments? The General Social Survey, one of the best sociological measurement tools, asked these and similar questions for the first time in its 40-year history. On several fronts, conservative Christians reported significantly higher rates of workplace woes, whether measured by church affiliation (which is how most researchers measure “evangelicals”) or by activity (e.g., having had “a ‘born-again’ experience”). On the plus side, they’re more likely to say they’re very satisfied with their job.

**I’ve been the target of rumors or gossip at work**

EVANGELICALS 36%

ALL AMERICANS 29%

By another measure, Americans who say they’ve had a born-again experience are almost three times as likely to say they’re often the target of gossip.

**I’ve been treated rudely at work**

EVANGELICALS 44%

ALL AMERICANS 35%

Born-again Christians are 79 percent more likely than others to say they’re often or sometimes the butt of jokes or derogatory comments.

**I’ve been lied to at work**

EVANGELICALS 50%

ALL AMERICANS 42%

Evangelicals and born-again are nearly twice as likely to say their boss has lied to them.

## What did you do about it?

“Born-again” are more likely to confront the person engaging in the behavior than nonborn-again Americans as a whole. But members of non-Christian religions are significantly more likely to confront offenders than members of any Christian group (or than “nones”). Evangelicals and born-again are the least likely to report incidents to management.