

Is Religion a Crutch?

Jesse Ventura famously said: “Organized religion is a sham and a crutch for weak-minded people who need strength in numbers”.¹ What Karl Marx wrote translates as: "Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, and the soul of soulless conditions. It is the opium of the people".²

We were made to be connected to the Trinity, but not to be involved in any form of religion. Religion is man’s attempt to mimic the life humans were created to have. People drift towards the Christian religion for one of 3 reasons: (1) They know there’s a higher power that must be worshipped and served; (2) They know in their ‘knower’ that they’re supposed to connect with their creator; or (3) They can’t cope with life without having a higher life form to deal with their problems.

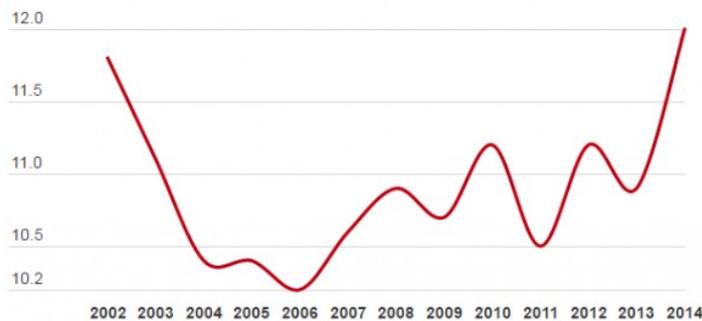
Non-believers ‘look down on’ all Christians as weaklings, seeing them as unable to cope with life. The interesting point really is that they can’t see their own weakness. As one Christian writer wrote:

*“Have you ever heard someone explain religion as simply a “crutch”? Guess what, they’re right... Practically, we see it’s true. Take a look at any of our films and you’ll see over 100 broken people who have needed a crutch. The only crutch that could help them walk again was their faith in Jesus Christ.”*³

Just check out Australia’s suicide rate to see how many people can’t cope with their lives.⁴

Suicide rate per 100,000

Australia's suicide rate is at its highest level in 13 years.



Suicide Deaths by age & sex as a percentage of total suicide deaths, 2016 (a)(b)(c)



1 – www.goodreads.com/quotes/116680-organized-religion-is-a-sham-and-a-crutch-for-weak-minded

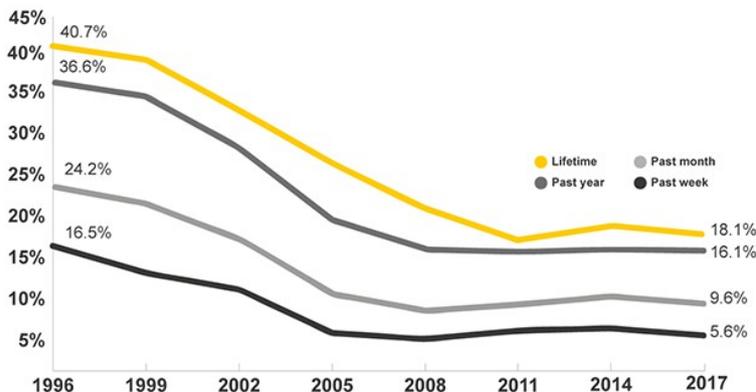
2 – en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Opium_of_the_people

3 – Jonathan M. Seidl (5-2-2016) “Yes, religion is a crutch for the weak” www.iamsecond.com/yes-religion-is-a-crutch-for-the-weak

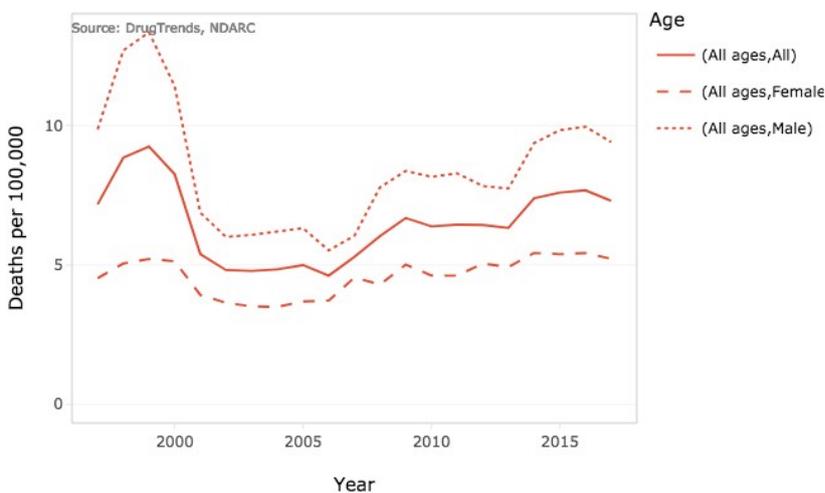
4 – Graphs: anglicaresa.com.au/6-startling-facts-about-suicide-in-australia

In 2016 there was an average of 7.85 deaths by suicide in Australia each day.⁵ All these have decided that they can't find anything to help them keep their lives stable. They'd decided that to die was the easiest way to eliminate the trouble. Notice that the rate is higher in the 20-60 age bracket. After that adults have mainly mastered life.

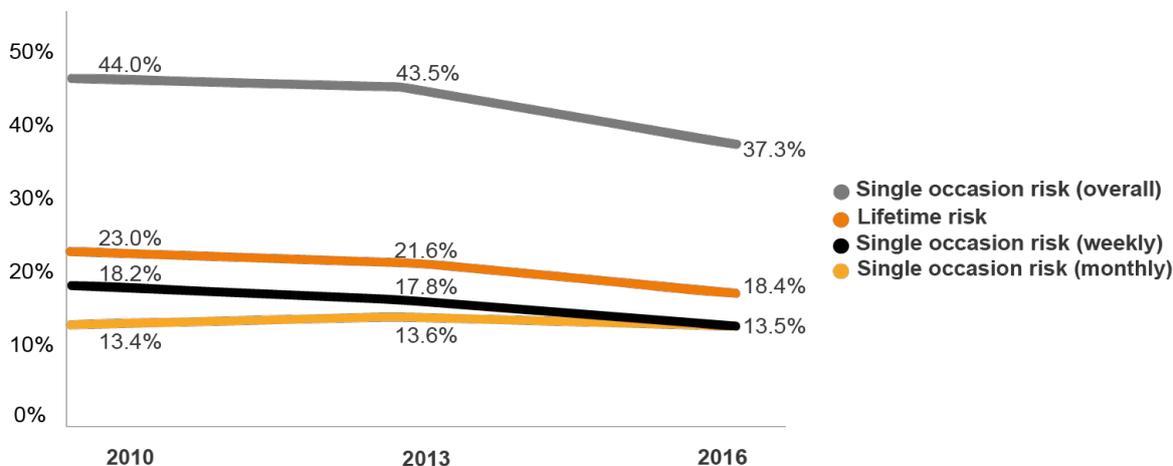
Check out the use of illicit drugs in Australia. (Western Australian school students, 12 to 17 years)⁶



Check out the death rate from opiate drug use in Australia.⁷



Check out alcohol over-use in Australia. (Proportion of Western Australian's, 14 years and older, who drink at-risk of harm over the lifetime and on a single occasion in 2010, 2013 and 2016.)⁸



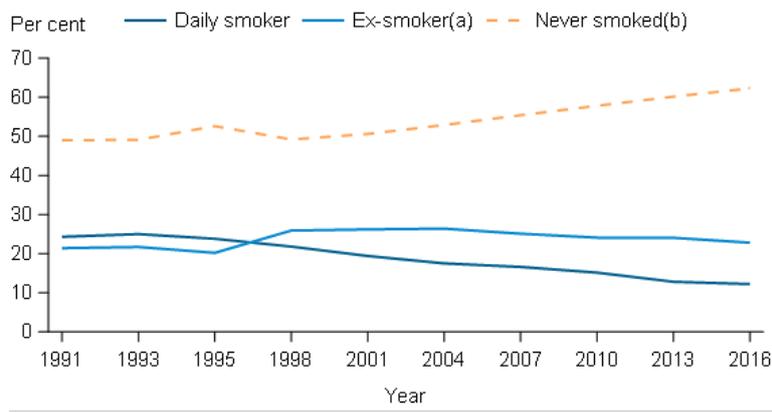
5 – GRAPHS: anglicaresa.com.au/6-startling-facts-about-suicide-in-australia

6 – GRAPH: drugaware.com.au/getting-the-facts/drug-use-statistics

7 – GRAPH: www.abc.net.au/triplej/programs/hack/opioid-drug-deaths/11310816

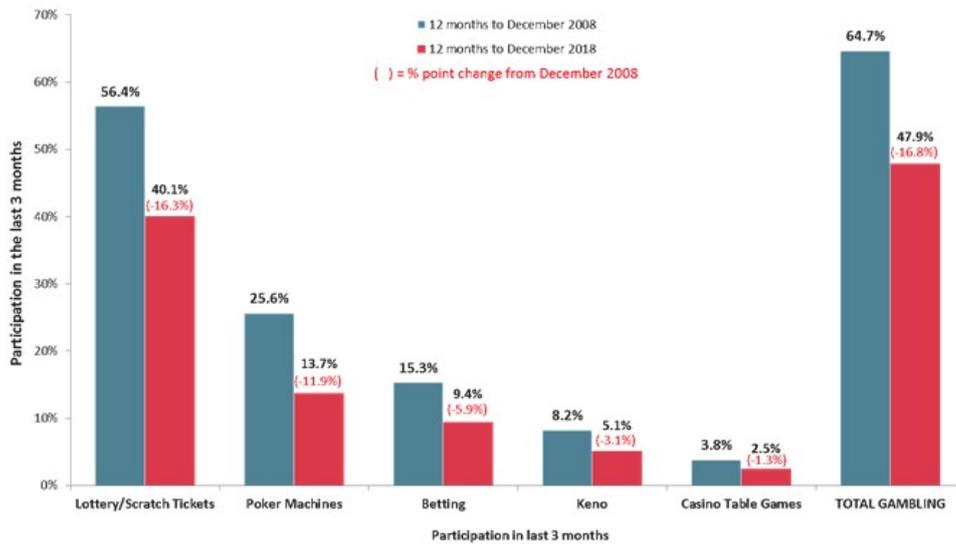
8 – GRAPH: www.abc.net.au/triplej/programs/hack/opioid-drug-deaths/11310816

Check out the use of tobacco in Australia.⁹



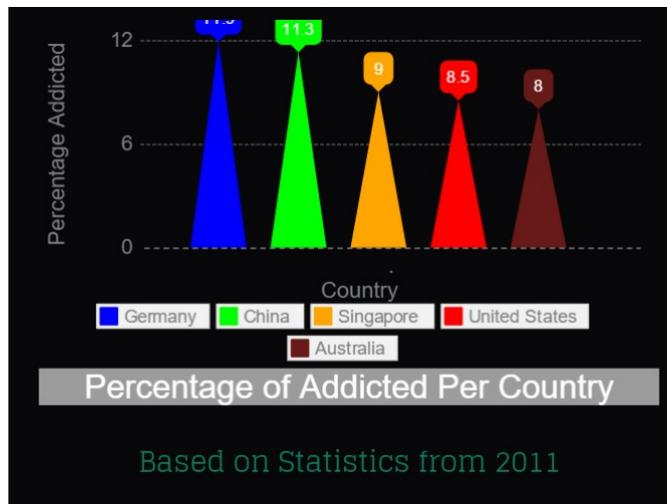
What do we see from these graphs? Many, many people use some form of artificial stimulus to help them cope with life. These stimuli provide an ‘upper’ or a ‘downer’ so that the issues the person can’t cope with are dulled for a short period of time. This enables them to keep on living.

Now check out gambling.¹⁰



Gambling is used to counteract the dullness of their lives or provide an ‘upper’ with the prospect of a win or of making enough money to solve all their problems.

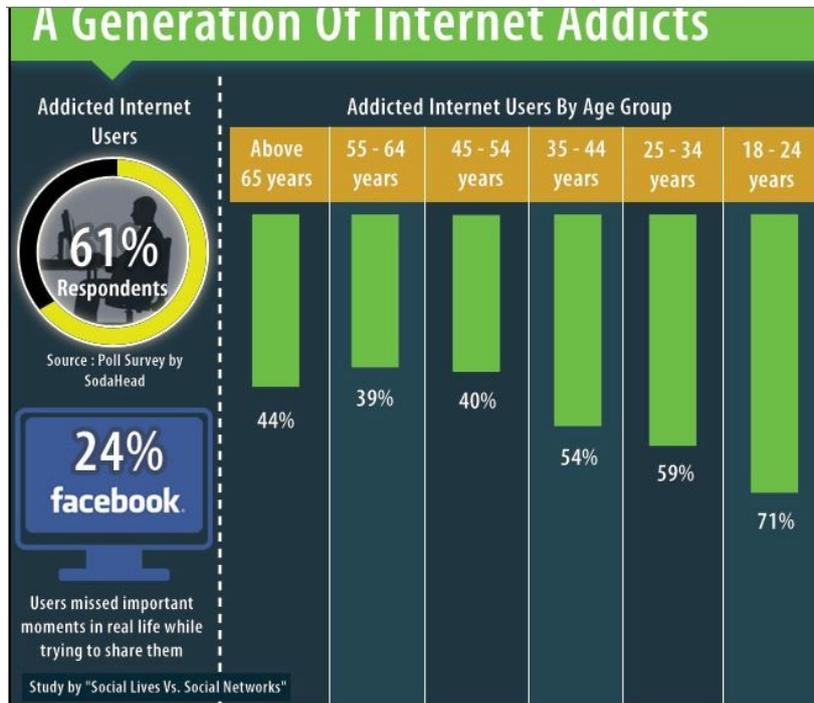
Then there’s computer game addiction.



9 – GRAPH: www.aihw.gov.au/reports/illicit-use-of-drugs/ndshs-2016-key-findings/contents/tobacco-smoking

10 – GRAPH: www.roymorgan.com/findings/7941-gambling-participants-201904120606

And then there's Internet addiction.¹¹



CONCLUSION: A considerable portion of people in Australia use some form of support to keep them going through their lives. I haven't mentioned those who use porn, sexual exploits, love relationships, etc. all of which are antidotes for their need to feel life is worth living. In other words, these all have a 'crutch'. Those who say they don't have a crutch are in the minority. As one Christian wrote:

*"I just heartily agree if I'm with a skeptic and he says, 'I think religion is for the weak.' I'm like, 'You're absolutely right. I just totally agree with you. I think where we probably disagree is that you don't see yourself as weak. But I would totally agree that the weak-hearted, weak-minded, that they use religion as a crutch. But what I'm trying to say lovingly, brother, is that your legs are broke. I got a crutch for you. Come on in.'"*¹²

Religion can be one of those 'crutches' people use to 'get by', including the Christian religion.

On the other hand, there's the reality of the Kingdom of God on Earth. Here, Father offers us sonship which is not a crutch. In the Kingdom we live how we were created to live – although, in a 'fallen' world. This life is having his Spirit connected to our spirit, while he lives his life in us and through us. This should not be seen as a crutch helping us to cope with life as it's the real life. Unfortunately most people haven't experienced the reality of Kingdom life so they opt for something else, something they can easily grasp and turn to their favour, while under their control (or so they think).

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11 – GRAPH: smartchristianwoman.wordpress.com/2015/10/13/internet-addiction

12 – Matt Chandler quoted by Jonathan M. Seidl. Article not available on the Internet. (Matt can be found here: www.thevillagechurch.net)
 Matt also wrote on the topic here: www.tvcreources.net/resource-library/articles/christianity-is-a-crutch-for-the-weak